

# Soccer Theatrics A New Art Form

## Cheating by Faking Injuries Challenges Players' Talents

By George Vecsey  
New York Times Service

PARIS — I once met a man who had died 100 times. He lived in Rome and was a writer or a waiter, something like that. To supplement his income, he specialized in dying. He had tumbled down the Spanish Steps, he had drowned in the Trevi Fountain, he had been shot in the Piazza Navona (a terribly painful place to be shot). Whenever they needed a victim, Italian film directors would ring him up and tell him to start flopping.

He could quiver, he could gasp, he could moan, he could groan. He was a kindred soul to the World Cup soccer players, the greatest collection of fakers and con-men and whiners I have ever seen.

Take Slaven Bilic, for example. This Croatian defender will never win an Academy Award for subtlety (who

### VANTAGE POINT

ever did, come to think of it?) but he is the reason Laurent Blanc, one of France's best defenders, has been suspended for World Cup final this Sunday against Brazil.

So convincingly did Bilic grab his chest, his eyes, his throat, searching for the source of his inner pain, that Jose-Manuel Garcia Aranda, the fascinated Spanish referee, promptly waved a red card at Blanc. France had to play nearly 20 minutes a man short, preserving its 2-1 lead, and must play Sunday's final without Blanc.

After Blanc waved a handful of knuckles in the general direction of Bilic, the Croat did a gross impersonation of a man fighting off invisible demons. Blanc is automatically suspended, with no recourse to appeal.

"I feel terrible about it," Bilic said afterward. "If I could do something about it, I would."

Bilic is a thorough professional. He has a thick mop of curly hair, wears an earring, and has the roguish smile of a young Donald Sutherland, backed up with muscles.

"I think he is a great player," Bilic said. "He hit me, I tried to defend myself." Where exactly did Bilic get hit? "He hit me somewhere around here," Bilic said, gesturing in the general direction of his chin. "It's hard to remember."

There were no noticeable welts or cuts or gashes or bruises above his shirt line. He seemed fine. "He hit

See CARD, Page 22



SEEING RED — Laurent Blanc, right, the French defender, is sent off by Jose-Manuel Garcia Aranda



PHONE-BOOTH BOMB — Police officers in Zilina, Slovakia, clearing debris Thursday after a blast killed the director of a primary school and her husband, a journalist. A recent wave of bombings in the country has been laid to gang warfare.

# Why Japan Waits and Waits

## Even the Other Hashimoto Can't Change the System

By Nicholas D. Kristof  
New York Times Service

KOCHI, Japan — It is more of a compliment than it might sound when people say that Daijiro Hashimoto is the best politician in his family. His brother, after all, is Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

But it is Daijiro Hashimoto, governor of Kochi Prefecture here on the southern Japanese island of Shikoku, who is hailed as an example of the kind of dynamic leadership that Japan needs.

Shikoku is one of the poorest parts of Japan, but Governor Hashimoto has shaken up the prefecture and made it a testing ground for the nation. More to the point for a politician, polls show him drawing public approval ratings of more than 70 percent.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, though, has slumped below

30 percent, and he could even be forced to resign if his Liberal Democratic Party loses ground in elections Sunday for the upper house of Parliament. Polls show the party struggling, in part because the prime minister seems to be emblematic of the old-style politicians who have led Japan into its present economic mess and cannot lead it out.

The tale of the two brothers underscores the weaknesses of Japan's political system. While Daijiro Hashimoto is praised by Japanese commentators and his own constituents, under the rigid seniority system in the Liberal Democratic Party he and others like him stand almost no chance of ever playing a major role in national politics.

Moreover, he is pessimistic about the prospects of fundamental change in Japan in the coming

See JAPAN, Page 10

### AGENDA

#### Rebel Leader Slain, Algeria Says

ALGIERS (Reuters) — The government said Thursday that the leader of the Armed Islamic Group rebels in Algeria had been shot and killed in the forested heights above the capital.

Government security forces said in a brief statement that the rebel leader, Khalifi Athmane, was among 11 rebels they killed in the area Wednesday. The announcement was made hours after a bomb ripped through a flea market in an Algiers neighborhood, killing at least 10 people.

Mr. Athmane, 24, and his fellow rebels are suspected of carrying some of the deadliest attacks in Algeria. On a number of occasions Algerian newspapers have reported Mr. Athmane's death in government security forces operations.

Books ..... Page 9. Opinion ..... Pages 8-9  
Crossword ..... Page 13. Sports ..... Pages 22-23.

The Dollar			
New York	Thursday 8 A.M.	previous close	
DM	1.8287	1.8193	
Yen	141.07	139.415	
FF	6.129	6.095	
Pound	1.6317	1.6367	
Dollars per pound.			
The Dow			
	Thursday close	percent change	
↓	85.19	9,089.78	— 0.93%
S&P 500			
↓	7.81	1,158.56	— 0.67%
Nasdaq			
↑	4.58	1,940.07	+ 0.24%
The iHt on-line <a href="http://www.ihit.com">www.ihit.com</a>			

# Poor No More: Europe's Second Tier Enjoys a Boom

By Edmund L. Andrews  
New York Times Service

MADRID — When Jose Antonio Santamaria and his family moved into their new condominium in February, they got satellite television along with access to enclosed gardens and a swimming pool.

But they also got a euro-break. Largely because Spain has been accepted into the group of European nations that will adopt the euro as a single currency in January, interest rates here have plunged almost as low as those in Germany.

For the Santamarias, that translates into monthly

payments that are about \$140 lower than he had calculated when construction started three years ago. "It is much cheaper than we had expected," he said.

Like Mr. Santamaria, Spain has not had it this good in years. As much of Europe adopts the euro as a single currency, poorer countries like Spain, Portugal and Ireland are growing much faster than bigger and wealthier ones like France and Germany.

Since 1995, interest rates in Spain and Portugal have plunged to less than 6 percent from 11 percent, largely because interest rates across the euro zone are converging down at the levels of Germany, Ireland, with a well-educated work force and relatively flexible work

rules, has become an important manufacturing base for American companies exporting to Europe and a back-office location for companies doing business on the Continent.

While job creation continues to be stagnant in much of continental Europe, it is growing rapidly in places like Spain. And while consumers in Germany anxiously refrain from spending, demand is surging in the poorer countries.

"None of us is going to be the same five years from now — not us, not France, not Germany," said

See EUROPE, Page 7

## Blair Faces Scandal

Britain's prime minister, Tony Blair, finds himself beset this week with allegations of cronyism between senior government officials and former associates who are now lobbyists, including claims that lobbyists passed knowledge of policy decisions to clients before the government informed Parliament. Page 10.

Newstand Prices	
Andorra	10.00 FF Lebanon
Antilles	12.50 FF Morocco
Cameroon	1.600 CFA Qatar
Egypt	EE 5.50 Reunion
France	10.000 FF Saudi Arabia
Gabon	1.100 CFA Senegal
Italy	2.800 Lire Spain
Ivory Coast	1.250 CFA Tunisia
Jordan	1.250 JD U.A.E.
Kuwait	700 Fils U.S. Mil. (Eur)

# Royal Son Meets Mistress

## Prince William Greets Camilla Parker Bowles

By Warren Hoge  
New York Times Service

LONDON — In a get-together that was not supposed to happen this soon, if ever, Prince William has unexpectedly met Camilla Parker Bowles, the companion of his father, Prince Charles, and the woman that his mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, held responsible for the breakup of their marriage.

A spokeswoman for Prince Charles confirmed the news and said she had no objection to its publication, fueling speculation that a move to gain public acceptance of Mrs. Parker Bowles as consort to the heir to the throne was resuming. That campaign had ended abruptly — some thought permanently — last Aug. 31, when Diana was killed in a car crash in Paris.

The spokeswoman said she felt publication did not violate the press agree-

ment to safeguard the privacy of the 16-year-old prince, but added that she hoped "the fact of William's meeting does not spill over into acres of intrusive, speculative gossip."

The Sun, Britain's largest daily tabloid, was the paper that turned up evidence of the meeting, and it devoted five pages of "World Exclusive" coverage to details of the encounter in its Thursday edition. The paper said it had held off publication for 24 hours at Prince Charles's request so he could tell his son that the matter was about to become public.

According to The Sun and other reports published Thursday, Prince William came into London from Eton, his boarding school in nearby Berkshire, on Friday evening, June 12, to go to the movies with friends. He made an unplanned stop at his covey decorated apartment in his father's quarters at St.



Prince William, who last month met with his father's companion.

James's Palace to change his clothes. Mrs. Parker Bowles, a frequent overnight guest, was there, and his father

See ROYALS, Page 10

# China Tells Taiwan To 'Face Reality'

## Call for Talks on Unification Follows Statement by Clinton

By John Pomfret  
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — China urged Taiwan on Thursday to "face reality" and agree to negotiations on eventual reunification with China, following comments from President Bill Clinton that the United States would not support an independent Taiwan.

Taiwan, meanwhile, announced that it had agreed to a visit by a senior Communist negotiator in an attempt to prepare for resumption of high-level dialogue between the two rivals, separated by the 160-kilometer (100-mile) Taiwan Strait.

The developments indicate that after a three-year freeze, talks could begin as early as this fall.

They also underscore the important role that the United States has played in forcing Taiwan to go to the bargaining table.

Mr. Clinton's statement, which he made during his nine-day trip to China, was taken as a major defeat in Taiwan even though U.S. officials contended it was simply a reiteration of declared Washington policy.

President Clinton's remarks, made June 30 in Shanghai, made it clear that the United States would not support any independence bid by the island of 21 million people, nor would it support a

policy backing "one China, one Taiwan" or "two Chinas." Finally, Mr. Clinton said the United States opposed Taiwan's bid to enter international bodies that accept only sovereign states.

While the policy was first enunciated in October 1977, Mr. Clinton himself had never said it before.

Thus, it was taken as a major defeat in Taiwan, which relies on the United States for the bulk of its political support and for most of its weapons.

In Washington, Mr. Clinton's statement has drawn some criticism. On Tuesday, the Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, called Mr. Clinton's remarks counterproductive and threatened unspecified congressional action.

The Chinese government has said it was satisfied with Mr. Clinton's remarks, even though it had tried to get them in writing first.

Chinese officials have said that they plan to use such remarks as a lever to force Taiwan to participate in political talks on reunification.

Taiwanese officials say they want to limit any new talks to specific issues such as immigration, cross-border crime, fishing rights and protection of investments.

China rejects this limited approach and insists that a broader discussion of

See CHINA, Page 10

# Anxious Nigeria Awaits Verdict on Abiola Death

## Foreign Experts to Take Part in the Autopsy

By Roger Cohen  
New York Times Service

LAGOS — Stores were shuttered on Thursday, isolated fires burned and streets were unusually empty as Nigeria anxiously awaited a verdict on the sudden death of its main opposition leader, Moshood Abiola, and the promised birth of a new democratic system.

The body of Mr. Abiola, who died on Tuesday, apparently of heart failure, in the capital, Abuja, was transported on Thursday to Lagos, but his precise whereabouts remained unclear amid concern that any public sighting of his corpse could ignite tumult. The Lagos state government imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

International doctors, including three Americans, who are to conduct the critical autopsy, also arrived here, and Western officials said they would almost certainly examine Mr. Abiola's body on Friday. The more time that passes between death and a post-mortem, the more difficult analysis becomes.

"If everything goes according to plan, we should have the preliminary findings by the weekend," said one Western official. "If we find blockage

of the arteries, then everything will be pretty straightforward. But of course if the arteries are clear, then you have a whole new ball game."

Members of Mr. Abiola's family, who were gathered here for the funeral here in Lagos or his hometown, remain convinced that Nigeria's most charismatic political figure was poisoned on the eve of his promised release from four years of imprisonment. Several political leaders share the same conviction.

[The family also appealed for calm, Reuters reported. "The greatest honor we can do him in death is to embrace peace," the politician's eldest son, Kola Abiola, said in a statement.]

Nigeria's military rulers are trying to calm an angry nation by agreeing to allow the outside experts to take part in the autopsy and speaking, albeit in vague terms, of moving toward democracy. But the country remains poised on a knife-edge.

Debris and smashed glass littering several streets in Lagos testify to the sporadic rioting since Mr. Abiola died Tuesday. The riots underscored the explosive resonance of his name.

See NIGERIA, Page 10

# War Crimes Treaty Stalls Over Inclusion of Rape

By Alessandra Stanley  
New York Times Service

ROME — A dispute between women's groups and the Vatican over a legal term has broadened into a battle of religion and gender politics that could jeopardize agreement on whether rape will be declared a war crime by an international criminal court.

There is wide consensus at a United Nations conference that rape is a war crime that should be prosecuted by an international tribunal. Women's groups have fought to have a treaty include "enforced pregnancy" as a war crime, for the act of impregnating women and forcing them to bear children as tools of ethnic reprisal.

The Vatican agrees that such rapes are war crimes, but it is troubled by the term "enforced pregnancy," fearing it could be interpreted as an invitation to challenge and abortion laws in many countries. And that dispute has polarized many of the 159 delegations that have only days left to negotiate rules for a permanent tribunal to prosecute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The battle has become one of the most glacial and painful examples of how contentious and intractable the process of negotiating a treaty on war crimes is.

The issue of "enforced pregnancy"

is marginal next to the more fundamental questions about the court's jurisdiction and authority. But it is one of many seemingly secondary issues that could thwart a consensus.

"Everybody is consumed by whether the big five issues can be resolved," said one member of a Western delegation who asked not to be named. "But we are forgetting that items six through 30 could just as easily throw a wrench into a successful negotiation of the treaty."

There is universal support at the conference for the principle that individuals who commit genocide or other atrocities should be held accountable. But the delegates are split over some of the basic issues of the court's jurisdiction.

Countries as closely allied as Canada and the United States are battling over how powerful and independent an international prosecutor should be. The United States, which fears that American peacekeeping troops could be dragged before international judges on frivolous charges, wants to limit the prosecutor's power to initiate cases.

Canada and some 50 other countries insist that unless the prosecutor has broad authority to bring charges independently, the court will lack authority. Many Third World countries worry that

See VATICAN, Page 10



## THE AMERICAS

## CNN Won't Fire Arnett Over Errors

By Felicity Barringer  
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Executives of Cable News Network have decided to allow Peter Arnett to stay on as a correspondent despite his role in the network's repudiated report that Americans used the lethal nerve gas sarin on a secret 1970 military mission in Laos.

Peter Arnett's reprimand stands, said a statement issued Wednesday by Tom Johnson, chairman and chief executive of CNN News Group.

"No further personnel actions are planned."

The decision met mixed reactions among the network's journalists, some of whom felt Mr. Arnett, the correspondent who as narrator lent his credibility in the report, was being given a

break that had not been accorded in April Oliver and Jack Smith, the producers.

Both were dismissed by CNN last week. Both also say they stand by their report and argue that the network caved in under pressure.

Mr. Arnett's defense — that he was simply doing the bidding of the producers of the new program "Newsstand: CNN and Time" and reading words written by others — has proved a particular irritant to some of the other network correspondents.

Christiane Amanpour, whose reporting from areas like Bosnia and Iran has given her high visibility, vehemently denied that when reporting for a news-magazine program like "Impact," she narrated reports developed by others, as Mr. Arnett suggested in an interview.

"I believe, contrary to what Peter Arnett appears to believe, that a network correspondent should be responsible for what he or she says on the air," she said in a telephone interview.

"I believe that we have our face, our name, our voices and our credibility, and therefore we should be responsible."

Mr. Johnson said in an interview: "Journalists must assure the accuracy of their reports. It is the obligation of all journalists to be sure we have the story right."

Mr. Arnett, he added, has been "severely reprimanded" for not verifying the allegations.

Nonetheless, Mr. Johnson said: "On this, he did exactly what he was asked to do. He read the script for air and turned the information over to producers, including the interview with the mission's pilot."

The helicopter pilot who was interviewed by Mr. Arnett said his craft carried tear gas, not nerve gas, for use in the raid. This point was not included in the broadcast.

The decisions to cut or minimize denials of the report's central thesis about the use of nerve gas have come under sharp attack. The network retracted the report and apologized last week.

This came after a CNN investigation, headed by a noted libel lawyer, Floyd Abrams, determined that the information gathered by the producers in eight months of reporting did not substantiate the assertion that nerve gas had been used.

Ms. Oliver and Mr. Smith applauded the network's decision to retain Mr. Arnett. "This is a victory for reporters everywhere," Mr. Smith said.

"I am delighted that Peter Arnett's job has been saved, provided it's unconditional and that CNN management did not force him to take any positions that Peter felt he was forced to agree to, to save his job."

But Mr. Arnett did not see the decision as a victory. Speaking from the network's executive offices, he said: "Overall, this is not a victory for me at all."

"I feel that this story hurt CNN," he said. "It certainly hurt me. For those who say I should have been fired with the others — my reputation has taken a major hit around the world."

As for my colleagues who are fired — I know all of them. I'm sorry. I respect their work and I admire them."

Mr. Arnett's byline appeared, along with that of Ms. Oliver, on a Time magazine article about the September 1970 mission in Laos, which was code-named "Operation Tailwind."

Time, too, retracted the report and offered an apology.

## Bill to Rein In IRS Wins Big in Senate

WASHINGTON — By an overwhelming bipartisan margin, Congress approved legislation Thursday revamping the Internal Revenue Service and expanding the rights of Americans battling the government's widely unpopular tax collector.

The Senate approved the measure by 96 to 2 two weeks after the House endorsed it by 402 to 8.

When President Bill Clinton affixes his promised signature, it will mark the most profound changes in the agency since 1952.

"Because of this reform legislation, it will mean a new day for the American taxpayer," said one of the authors, the Senate Finance Committee chairman, William Roth, Republican of Delaware.

Praise also flowed from Mr. Clinton, who had resisted attempts to overhaul the agency until after hearings in September.

These televised sessions featured taxpayers and IRS employees who told tales of abusive agency conduct, creating unstoppable political momentum for change. (AP)

## A Flag-Burning Ban Gaining in Congress

WASHINGTON — In one sense, a hearing Thursday before the Senate Judiciary Committee to consider a constitutional amendment to allow Congress to ban flag-burning was just so much rhetorical icing on the cake.

The committee approved the measure two weeks ago and hardly needed the inspiration provided by witnesses like the longtime baseball manager, Tommy Lasorda.

Mr. Lasorda denounced the Supreme Court for treating the flag as

## Away From Politics

• A high-tech weather satellite that had been stored in orbit above Earth is being activated to replace an older satellite that is showing signs of failure. The GOES-10 satellite should be in full operation within 72 hours, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced. (AP)

• A man who admitted forging papers to make it appear as if John F. Kennedy had an affair with Marilyn Monroe has been charged in New York with mail and wire fraud. (AP)

• The New York City Police Department is planning to equip its entire force with hollow-point bullets, which cause much greater injury to people they strike but are considered less likely to cut down bystanders. (NYT)

## POLITICAL NOTES



GUN CURBS — Suzann Wilson, mother of a child shot and killed at a school in Jenesboro, Arkansas, weeping in Washington as President Bill Clinton called for Congress and the states to tighten restrictions to make it more difficult for children to gain access to guns.

## Quote/Unquote

"just another piece of cloth" when it ruled in 1989 that burning a flag in political protest was a form of constitutionally protected expression.

But in another sense, this after-the-fact hearing was a preview of things to come.

After several false starts, and with little public notice this time, supporters of a flag-protection amendment appear closer to victory than at any other time since the effort began to overturn the court's 1989 decision in Texas v. Johnson. (NYT)

The House speaker, Newt Gingrich, as he joined a bipartisan attempt with President Bill Clinton on a \$1 billion government program to snuff teen drug use: "It's important first of all to send a signal to young people that whether you're a Republican or a Democrat, you're committed to getting across the message that drugs are dangerous. This is a national message, not a political message." (AP)

## NBC News Loses Case

## Jury Orders It to Pay \$525,000 in Damages For Report Misrepresenting Trucking Firm

By Seth Schiesel  
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A jury in Maine has found that "Dateline NBC," the network's prime-time news program, was negligent in misrepresenting a 1995 series about the trucking industry and ordered the network to pay \$525,000 in damages.

The federal case in Bangor did not center on whether the two-part report was true. Instead, it focused on whether the NBC journalists had misrepresented the focus of the story and how the sources would be portrayed.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit, the owners of Classic Carriers, based in Waterville, Maine, and one of the company drivers accused an NBC correspondent, Fred Francis, and a freelance producer, Alan Handel, of misleading them about the theme of a segment on the trucking industry.

The company's owners, Raymond and Kelly Veilleux, and the driver, Peter Kennedy, said Mr. Francis and Mr. Handel had conveyed that they were working on a positive story. The two-part series instead focused on safety violations by Mr. Kennedy and other truckers.

NBC argued that it had promised only to report accurately as a film crew joined Mr. Kennedy for a cross-country drive.

In the program, Mr. Kennedy re-

ferred to his driving log as a "joke book" and admitted falsifying entries so he could drive for periods longer than the law allows. At one point Mr. Kennedy drove from Chicago to Boston without sleep.

Mr. Kennedy argued that the program failed to reflect his views that he could drive for long periods without impairing his driving ability.

After deliberating for four and a half hours Tuesday and five hours Wednesday, the jury said the network and the show had committed negligence and misrepresentation and had inflicted emotional distress.

Mr. Veilleux was awarded \$300,000, Mr. Kennedy \$175,000 and Ms. Veilleux \$50,000.

NBC, a unit of General Electric Co., stood by the report Wednesday.

"NBC News believes our story was presented accurately and regrets that the jury came to a different conclusion," the network said. Kassie Carter, an NBC spokeswoman, said NBC was weighing whether to appeal.

It was the second time in six years that "Dateline NBC" found trouble with trucks. In 1992, as part of a segment on truck safety, the show broadcast footage of a General Motors truck hurtling into flame supposedly as a result of a collision. It turned out that the program's producers had rigged the truck to explode more easily.

## NO EXCUSES NO ALIBIS

## THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT MUST BE ESTABLISHED ON JULY 17, 1998!



Only 7 days remain before the end of the Diplomatic Conference that started in Rome on June 15. Only 168 hours to achieve the establishment of an International Criminal Court to try War Crimes, Genocide and Crimes against Humanity. While key issues still remain unresolved, solutions are possible. It is only a question of political will.

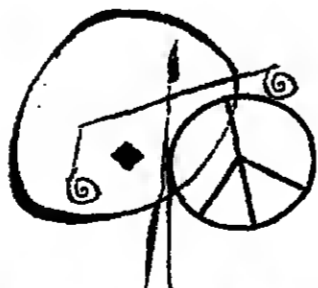
50 years have passed since the Nuremberg Trial: in these 50 years the world has witnessed 250 conflicts with over 200 million deaths. Now, after years of preparation, it is clearly time to decide. We can no longer avoid or postpone decision making. Objections and reservations can and must be overcome. On the most important and controversial issues - from the relationship between the Court and the UN Security Council to the powers of the Prosecutor, from the relationship between national and international jurisdictions to the financing of the Court - there are solutions that can be quickly refined. On these issues, which take into consideration several countries' positions and which

do not hinder the establishment nor the effectiveness of the Court, it is possible to gather a wide consensus. Today, it is not only necessary, but also possible to finally equip the international community with an essential tool to establish a universal criminal jurisdiction. To create a Tribunal able to act in an independent way to prosecute the most egregious crimes and put an end to impunity insuring, at the same time, the appropriate safeguards for the accused, beginning with the exclusion of the death penalty. At this juncture the world public opinion, men and women of goodwill will not understand any further delays or boycotting.

We ask you to keep your word:

BILL CLINTON BEFORE THE 1997 UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
New York, September 22, 1997

“... and to punish those responsible for crimes against humanity — and to promote justice so that peace endures — we must maintain our strong support for the U.N.’s war crime tribunals and truth commissions. Before the century ends, we should establish a permanent international court to prosecute the most serious violations of humanitarian law ...”

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Over 1,000 parliamentarians from 70 countries endorsed a TRP appeal to establish the International Criminal Court at the Rome Diplomatic Conference. On July 14, a torch-light march will take ICC supporters from the Campidoglio to the FAO, seat of the UN treaty conference.



## EUROPE

## U.S. Hardens Line in Talks on War Crimes Court

By Charles Trueheart  
Washington Post Service

PARIS — With one week to go before diplomats conclude negotiations to establish a permanent international war crimes court, the United States offered its sharpest reservations to date Thursday about the scope and authority of the new court.

Negotiators from 160 nations meeting in Rome are coalescing around a compromise draft of an agreement that the Clinton administration may not accept, risking isolation from its traditional allies and unsavory international company.

David Scheffer, chief U.S. delegate to the five-week conference, said that "if the court seeks to overreach established customary international law" or "to shove aside national judicial principles" or "to create a single supranational investigative mechanism," then "we will have created an institution with limited membership and dubious credibility."

A European delegate said that the restrictions the United States seeks on the independence of the court are tougher than any of those applied to the Nuremberg and Tokyo war crimes tribunals after World War II.

He characterized Mr. Scheffer's speech on Thursday as a veiled threat to abandon the conference if U.S. demands were not met.

The United States laid out its conditions in response to a "discussion paper" presented by the conference chairman, Philippe Kirsch of Canada — in effect, a draft of a final treaty that seeks to resolve key points of contention before July 17, when the conference ends.

Some of the 250 human rights and international justice organizations at the conference credited the United States with negotiating concessions on several

points, including accepting the court's authority to investigate war crimes in the context of internal conflicts. They also praised apparent U.S. willingness to compromise on another issue by agreeing to limits on the power of the UN Security Council in blocking or delaying an independent prosecutor's investigations if they clashed with UN peacemaking operations.

But the United States is opposed to language that has the support of a large group of influential, mostly Western nations: Authorizing the prosecutor, with a pretrial chamber's review, to mount investigations without a specific request from the Security Council or an affected state party.

To the United States, along with such other major powers as China and India, such a statute raises a "fearful specter of a human rights ombudsman open to, and responsible for, responding to any and all complaints from any source," the U.S. envoy to the UN, Bill Richardson, said on a visit to Rome. "We are not here to create a court that exists to sit in judgment on national systems."

Human rights and international law organizations pressing for a strong court argue that the Clinton administration and its negotiator are hamstringing by the opposition of Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which would review any treaty, and of certain elements in the U.S. military and intelligence establishments. Mr. Helms has said that he will not support any international court before which it is even theoretically possible that an American citizen might appear.

Diplomats and human rights observers say at least 60 of the 160 nations at the conference are inclined to support the emerging compromise language. "But will the political courage be there next week to resist the pressure that this court should not apply

to Americans?" said William Pace, who heads the coalition of more than 200 nongovernmental organizations monitoring the negotiation. "A court that's safe for Jesse Helms is a court that's safe for the Poles and the Hiders."

Throughout the conference, human rights observers and scholars monitoring the establishment of a permanent criminal court have had to steer between a treaty that accommodates the largest possible number of signatories at the expense of the court's authority and sweep, or one that is likely to garner fewer immediate signatures but maintains what proponents view as its integrity.

The United States is in the first group. "We have concluded that this should not be a club court, but a community court," Mr. Scheffer said. "We have to pull back from an idealistic vision of this court on paper. It just won't be effective in practice if it doesn't have a broad membership."

Many large nations that publicly support a court and are trying to bend the treaty toward their positions may not finally sign the treaty, at least in the immediate future. In that group are the United States, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, India, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Cuba, and Sudan, not company the United States wants to keep on a major issue of international law and justice, according to other governments and nongovernmental organizations.

Many European nations are seeking to meet U.S. objections and concerns, judging that an international court not recognized or supported by the United States is not likely to have much effectiveness. But, the European diplomat said, there was a risk that concessions to the United States might alienate core support. "To get the Americans on board we can't throw 60 countries overboard."

## Uneasy Northern Ireland Faces 'Awesome Prospect'

Time Running Out for Solution, Trimble Says

By James F. Clarity  
New York Times Service

BELFAST — David Trimble, the new first minister of Northern Ireland and head of the Protestant Ulster Unionist Party, said Thursday that the British province "faces a quite awesome prospect" if no compromise was reached in the next few days over the government's decision to ban an Orange Order parade from marching through a Roman Catholic community in Portadown, west of here.

"Time is running out," he said at a Belfast news conference, "and this society faces a quite awesome prospect if between now and the weekend we do not find a satisfactory way out of it."

Mr. Trimble, who was chosen last week as head of the new Northern Ireland Assembly, which is supposed to enact the peace agreement approved in the spring, spent the day trying, apparently to no avail, to arrange a compromise between Orange Order Protestants and Catholics, who resent Orange parades in their neighborhoods.

Talks in London between Orange Order leaders and Prime Minister Tony Blair also failed to produce progress toward compromise.

Mr. Trimble spoke as sporadic violence continued across Northern Ireland.

Leaders of the Orange Order, meanwhile, disagreed with one another on how to deal with the British government's refusal to let them stage the march in Portadown.

Public anxiety grew as some Orange officials threatened to bring ordinary life here to a standstill, as other Protestants had done in 1974. Others indicated that they were still willing to compromise, to agree to a small, token parade without the traditional military five-and-drum music that Catholics find offensive and triumphant.

Robert Saulters, the grand master of the order, accused Catholics of "apartheid" and "ethnic cleansing."

Catholics said that Protestant mobs at the edge of the security cordon around the Catholic area of Drumcree were trying to starve them by preventing access to shopping areas.

Officials continued to try to persuade the Catholics to accept a token march. But the Catholics insist on direct talks with the Orangemen. But the Orangemen refuse to talk to the Catholic leader, Brendan MacDonagh, who served time in a British prison for his role in an Irish Republican Army bombing.

## Cold War Commerce

The Underbelly of the Berlin Airlift: East Met West in Clandestine Trade

By Alan Cowell  
New York Times Service

BERLIN — Half a century after the Berlin airlift, heroic images endure: courageous West Berliners under Soviet siege, saved from starvation by valiant American and British pilots flying food and fuel to the beleaguered Cold War outpost.

Lothar Schulze, though, has a slightly different version: To valor and pluck, add bribery, corruption and bootlegging.

Mr. Schulze, 70, was one of the hundreds of thousands of Berliners under Soviet occupation when the Berlin airlift started in response to the Soviet blockade of the Western sectors of the city in June 1948.

Since he lived in East Berlin, he was in theory severed from the Western benefits.

**'In the end we were all Berliners. We gave them potatoes and gas. And they traded things from the American airplanes.'**

cence that over the ensuing months brought 2.3 million tons of food, fuel and medicine to the Western part of the city. American and British pilots flew a staggering 278,000 missions in what has been depicted as one of history's greatest logistical feats.

That was the big picture. On the ground, though, Mr. Schulze said, a little devilry went a long way.

"On our side," he said, "we had things the West Berliners wanted, like gasoline and fresh potatoes. And they had things we wanted." Among these was the new currency that the victorious Western powers had just introduced in their zones of occupation. Its arrival on the fiscal scene of postwar Germany inspired the Soviets to blockade West Berlin — offering a foretaste of the clash of economic systems underpinning the Cold War.

The idea that the blockade

might have been more porous than history has suggested is gaining ground in Germany and the United States. In a recently published study called "No Struggle for Berlin?" (Bonvier Verlag), the journalist Volker Koop goes so far as to state: "It is not true that for 11 months, 2.5 million Berliners were cut off from the outside world. That is a legend."

Gisela Bilski, who was 13 when the airlift started, said, "If it hadn't been for us East Berliners, people in the West would have starved or frozen to death." She should know: she says smuggling fruit, coal and butter to the West cost her two days' detention and interrogation by Soviet authorities.

The young Lothar Schulze had a distinct advantage: His father owned a gasoline station in East Berlin, and his mother worked in West Berlin, so he was well placed to add a footnote of enterprise to the great rescue from the skies.

At that time the Berlin Wall did not exist — it was built in 1961 — and getting around the city was easier than it later came to be.

The guards enforcing the separation, Mr. Schulze said, were not so professional that they could not be persuaded to look the other way.

How? "By bribing them, of course," he said with an apologetic chuckle.

"The Westerners would come over to get gas from our filling station and pay us with the new marks, which was supposed to be forbidden, like most things were," Mr. Schulze said.

"But we knew one another," he said. "We weren't strangers because in the end we were all Berliners. So we did business. We gave them potatoes and gas. And they traded things from the American airplanes."

In other words, the rules of the market outginned Communist ideology as much in 1948 as they did in 1989, when the wall came crumbling down.

None of this is seen here as belittling the airlift, which not only ensured West Berlin's survival as a Western bulwark 175 kilometers (110 miles) inside East Germany, but also stamped a heroic view of America.



Germans in Berlin unloading coal from a U.S. Air Force plane during the blockade in the summer of 1948.

## BRIEFLY

## Cypriots Now Trained for Missiles

MOSCOW — Russia has completed training Cypriot troops in the use of anti-aircraft missiles it is expected to ship to the Greek part of the divided island in the coming months, Interfax news agency said Thursday.

Quoting unnamed military sources, Interfax said Russia's rocket forces had trained Cypriots on the S-300 anti-aircraft system in the Astrakhan region of southern Russia.

Turkey has warned that it might use force to block deployment of the anti-missile system it views as a threat to both its own security and that of the Turkish Cypriots.

The United States has said it is willing to explore the possible creation of a no-flight zone over the island to head off the looming crisis. (Reuters)

## Yeltsin's Health Is Poor, Aide Says

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin's health is so poor that he cannot maintain a vigorous work schedule and should not run for another term in office, a senior aide said in an interview published Thursday.

The remarks by Igor Shabdrasulov contradict the standard Kremlin line that the president's health is strong.

"You can't say that Yeltsin is in ideal physical shape, that he's full of energy and activity to work round the clock," Mr. Shabdrasulov, Mr. Yeltsin's recently appointed deputy chief of staff, said in an interview with the liberal daily Ruskaya Telegraf. (AP)

## Sweden Reports on Nazi Gold

STOCKHOLM — Almost half of the gold Sweden received from Nazi Germany may have been taken from victims of World War II, a Swedish government commission said Thursday.

In an interim report, the Commission on Jewish Assets said Sweden, which was neutral during the war, bought this gold even though the central bank governor suspected that some of it may have been taken from individuals.

The commission chairman, Rolf Wirtén, said that from today's perspective "it can be established that the moral aspect should have been considered openly" not later than the summer of 1944, when a suspicion had actually arisen. "Unfortunately," he added, "this does not appear to have been the case." (Reuters)

## Tillman Durdin, Old China Hand, Dies

By Eric Pace  
New York Times Service

Tillman Durdin, a longtime foreign correspondent for The New York Times who was one of the first to write about the Japanese atrocities in China that became known as the Rape of Nanking, died Tuesday at the Green Hospital in San Diego. He was 91 and lived in San Diego.

In late 1937, the year Japan invaded China, Mr. Durdin found himself in Nanking, then the Chinese capital, when it was occupied by the Japanese Imperial Army. There he became an eyewitness to the beginning of months of atrocities inflicted on the Chinese by Japanese troops.

After several days of watching in horror, Mr. Durdin and several other correspondents left the city, now known as Nanjing, for nearby Shanghai in order to send dispatches to their newspapers

without hindrance from the Japanese.

"Just as Mr. Durdin boarded a ship bound for Shanghai, he saw 200 Chinese men being executed by the Japanese Army," said Iris Chang, a historian who wrote the best-selling book "The Rape of Nanking" (Basic Books, 1997).

"He not only wrote the pages of history under pressure, but tried to save Chinese lives in Nanking. He should be remembered as an exemplar of humanity and courage in the darkest of times."

In a dispatch to The Times shortly after he arrived in Shanghai, Mr. Durdin wrote: "Just before boarding the ship for Shanghai, the writer watched the execution of 200 men. The killings took 10 minutes. The men were lined against the wall and shot. Then a number of Japanese, armed with pistols, trod nonchalantly around the crumpled bodies, pumping bullets into any that were still kicking."

From Shanghai he also wrote: "The conduct of the Japanese Army as a whole in Nanking was a blot on the reputation of their country."

"Their victory was marred by barbaric cruelties, by the wholesale execution of prisoners, by the looting of the city, rapes, killing of civilians and by general vandalism."

"Every able-bodied male was suspected by the Japanese of being a soldier," he wrote. "Civilians of both sexes and all ages were also shot by the Japanese," and, "Any person who, through excitement or fear, ran at the approach of the Japanese soldiers was in danger of being shot down."

Mr. Durdin was born in Elkhart, Texas, on March 30, 1907, attended Texas Christian University and as a reporter and editor of English-language newspapers in China from 1930 to 1937. He joined the staff of The Times in 1937 and retired in 1974.

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## INTERNATIONAL

## Dow Corning Settles Breast-Implant Lawsuit

By David J. Morrow  
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Dow Corning Corp. and lawyers for tens of thousands of women claiming injury from silicone breast implants have agreed to a \$3.2 billion settlement, a long-awaited step toward ending one of the most heated disputes in American corporate history.

The tentative agreement would end a legal battle of nearly a decade and allow the plaintiffs to receive money as early as next year.

It would also enable Dow Corning, a joint venture of Dow Chemical Co. and Corning Inc., to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy, which the company entered in 1995 for protection from as many 19,000 implant-damage suits.

The agreement leaves unresolved, however, the dispute between the two sides over the extent of harm from silicone implants. While localized complications from leaking implants are well documented, Dow Corning, supported by a growing body of research, has denied throughout the battle that implants cause systemic illness like autoimmune disorders.

One factor apparently pressuring both sides toward agreement, a participant in the negotiations that led to the settlement said, was a report expected later this year by a panel of doctors and other

scientists evaluating the scientific evidence; neither side wanted to wait and risk damage to its case.

And for Dow Corning, resolving its potential liability from implant suits was necessary to win a federal bankruptcy judge's approval of its corporate restructuring.

"While many of the details remain to be worked out over the next two months, this settlement is a breakthrough in an incredibly complex case," said the president of Dow Corning, Gary Anderson. "At a certain time in a controversy, both sides need to agree to disagree and look together to find common ground."

Tommy Jacks, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, said that if he had needed to go into court "to debate the science of silicone implants, I would still be in there, and these women who had suffered would not have any money."

The agreement, which is part of Dow Corning's restructuring plan, requires approval by a two-thirds vote of the 170,000 women who filed claims against the company, which was once the largest manufacturer of silicone implants, and by Dow Corning's creditors. Lawyers for the women were hopeful Wednesday that they would approve the agreement, enabling some to secure money for injuries sustained two decades ago.

A federal bankruptcy judge in Bay City, Michigan, Arthur Spector, is overseeing the bank-

ruptcy case of Dow Corning, which is based in Midland, Michigan. On Wednesday, the judge re-appointed a Duke University law professor, Francis McGovern, to mediate the rest of the agreement. Both sides were quick to point out that many of the details had yet to be worked out.

For many women who are plaintiffs in the case, the agreement was almost too good to be true.

"I need more details, but I'm hopeful it is a beginning," said Peggy Pardo, an implant recipient living in Addison, Illinois, a Chicago suburb. "Dow Corning will get on with business and these women will have to get on with their lives, but a lot of them have been destroyed."

Seldom has a consumer health issue divided corporations and their customers so bitterly. Between 650,000 and 1 million women received silicone breast implants during the 1970s and 1980s. The legal disputes started soon after, as women complained that leaks from the implants had damaged their health. Heading an outcry from the public, the Food and Drug Administration asked that the implants be removed from the market in 1992.

Besieged by lawsuits, the breast-implant manufacturers agreed in September 1993 to settle all litigation with a pay-out that would have totaled \$4 billion. The deal eventually fell apart, although several manufacturers settled with their claimants two years later.

## Where Is Zapatista Rebel Chief?

Subcommander Marcos Hasn't Been Seen Since February

By Julia Preston  
New York Times Service

OVENTIC, Mexico — The Zapatista Indian rebels who were standing watch at the gated entrance to this village the other day were terse when asked about the leaders of their guerrilla army.

"The top commanders are not here," a rebel said gruffly through an orange bandana. "We don't know where they are. Our orders are not to talk to anyone."

The sentinels outside this rebel stronghold in the Chiapas mountains were fielding a question that was familiar, because virtually everyone is asking it these days: Where is Subcommander Marcos, the chief strategist and spokesman of the Zapatista National Liberation Army?

Mr. Marcos has been a prolific author of long-winded communiqués, essays and political fables composed in colorful ironic prose that he issues by electronic mail from his hideouts, believed to be in the jungles of Chiapas. But since late February, he has been silent.

In the last two months, the government sent troops to crush offices of "mayors" that the Za-

pistas had set up in four towns in opposition to officials from the government's party. At least six rebels have been killed in the attacks, and dozens have been jailed.

Yet Mr. Marcos said nothing. Government officials say his real name is Rafael Sebastián Guillén Vicente. But the public is not entirely sure of his identity, because he has not been seen without his ski mask.

On June 7, Bishop Samuel Ruiz García, the leader of the Roman Catholic diocese that includes most of the Indian villages in Chiapas, resigned as the central mediator in peace talks between the government and the Zapatistas, protesting the government crackdown. Mr. Ruiz was the only person in the negotiations, which are stalled, whom the wary Zapatistas seemed to trust.

Still Mr. Marcos said nothing when the bishop stepped down.

A group of federal lawmakers who also mediate went to Chiapas in mid-June to try to make contact with Mr. Marcos. They did not find him.

The leader's last appearance was on a videotape that he sent on

Feb. 28 to a delegation of European human rights observers. The lack of response from Mr. Marcos and the top Indian leaders has left the appearance of disarray in the guerrilla army. On June 10 in the town of El Bosque firefighters erupted when Zapatista militia members shot back at government forces. That was the first time that the Zapatistas had broken a cease-fire in Chiapas in more than three years.

■ A Government Proposal

The Mexican government issued a new proposal late Wednesday for ending political violence in the southern state of Chiapas but said it did not plan to withdraw the army from the zone. Reuters reported from Mexico City.

"The Mexican Army will not withdraw from the state of Chiapas," read one of the five points listed in the plan.

The proposal, however, said that if peace talks with Zapatista rebels were restarted, the government would take "the first step in a series of actions and measures making up a progressive framework for a bilateral and reciprocal easing of tensions."



WAR-READY — Nuns at the Devic Convent bricking up a window to protect themselves from danger of clashes between ethnic Albanians and Serbian police.

## 10 Killed as Bomb Hits Crowded Algiers Market

ALGIERS — A bomb ripped through a market in a poor district of Algiers on Thursday morning, killing 10 civilians and wounding 21, security forces said.

Residents said the bomb, hidden in a bag, exploded at a crowded flea market in the Oued Kenich neighborhood. Markets have been targeted in previous bombings. At least 16 people were killed and 61 wounded May 22 when a bomb exploded in a market in an Algiers suburb.

The blast occurred a day after security forces said that troops shot and killed seven Muslim rebels in a forest in Bouzareah, on the heights of Algiers.

## Dutch Seek Extradition Of Ex-Suriname Ruler

THE HAGUE — The Dutch government said Thursday that it had asked authorities in Trinidad and Tobago to arrest and extradite a former Surinamese military ruler, Desi Bouterse, on drug trafficking charges.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the extradition request had been submitted as soon as the Dutch government learned that Mr. Bouterse had left Suriname and was on his way to Trinidad. There is an outstanding international warrant for Mr. Bouterse's arrest, the Dutch public prosecutor's office said.

On Wednesday, President Jules Wijdenbosch of Suriname confirmed that Mr. Bouterse had left the country. Mr. Bouterse ruled the former Dutch colony for seven years in the 1980s.

## Oil Price Slump Hits Mexico Budget Again

MEXICO CITY — The Mexican government has announced its third budget cut in six months, saying it could not finance its current spending plan because of falling world oil prices.

Mexico is the world's fifth-largest pro-

ducer of oil, which accounts for 38 percent of the country's revenues. But the glut of oil on world markets and the plunge in prices have created a \$4.3 billion shortfall for 1998 budget commitments.

The government has made up most of the difference by slashing \$3.7 billion in the overall budget of \$107 billion in three rounds of spending cuts. Many politicians and analysts had looked forward in strong growth and robust public spending this year to make up for the economic strictures of 1995 and 1996.

## Brazil Sets Up Program To Battle Amazon Fires

BRASILIA — Brazil has launched a plan to prevent and extinguish forest fires in its Amazon region amid fears that dry conditions there may lead to a repeat of a huge blaze such as the one earlier this year in northern Roraima state.

The program includes the creation of a rapid deployment team of 500 firefighters capable of reaching any part of Brazil's Amazon in 48 hours. But it seeks mainly to teach poor farmers to use fire to clear land only under controlled conditions.

## Death Sentence Given In Kenya Murder Trial

NAIROBI — Two men charged with killing a British tourist have been sentenced to death in a separate trial for killing another man, newspaper reports said Thursday.

The Kenyan defendants also have been on trial on separate homicide charges, one for killing a Kenyan teacher in January and the second for slaying to death a British tourist, Roy Chivers, on Feb. 15.

On Wednesday, a magistrate in Nyeri, in central Kenya, sentenced Peter Huhu Gachau and Simon Njoroge Wairimu to death by hanging for the Jan. 13 murder of the teacher, Mwariri Wachira. They were convicted July 3. Mr. Gachau and Mr. Wairimu could receive another death sentence if found guilty in the Chivers murder. That trial is to resume next Thursday. No execution has taken place in Kenya in more than a decade.



Emilio Rabassa, a Mexican official, announcing a new peace proposal for Chiapas.

## Quake Hits Azores, Killing 5 and Leaving 1,000 Homeless

LISBON — An earthquake shook the Azores, the Portuguese islands in the Atlantic Ocean, just before dawn Thursday, killing at least five people and leaving about 1,000 homeless.

The quake measured 5.8 on the Richter scale, and its epicenter at sea was 15 kilometers (9 miles) northeast of Faial Island, one of the group's nine

volcanic islands, a spokesman for Portugal's National Seismological Institute said.

Helena Vaz, spokeswoman for the Azores Civil Protection Service, said that at least 40 people were injured and about 1,000 left homeless on Faial, an island with a population of about 5,000 and the one that was the hardest hit by the quake.

Two Portuguese Air Force

Puma helicopters were being used to take casualties to the hospital in Horta, Faial's main city.

An Air Force C-130 transport plane carrying emergency aid was due to leave Lisbon with sniffer dogs, medical teams, electricity generators, rescue experts, 2,000 blankets and 160 army tents, Antonio Capinha, a spokesman for the Internal

Affairs Ministry, said.

"What they need mainly at the moment is sniffer dogs to find people who may be buried in the rubble of their own homes," Mr. Capinha said.

Prime Minister Antonio Guterres canceled a weekend vacation with Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to fly to the Azores.

The Portuguese state television network RTP showed

images of the small Faial village of Ribeirinha with families standing about in their nightwear in the bright morning sunshine as they surveyed the damage to their houses and cars.

Residents said the quake lasted between 15 and 20 seconds and was followed by a series of minor aftershocks. It hit at 5:22 A.M. local time on four of the islands, which lie 1,300 kilometers west of Portugal, Portuguese state radio reported.

Besides on Faial, rescue services also were alerted on the islands of Pico, Sao Jorge and Terceira, where the U.S. Air Force has a base, the radio said. Gregory Adams, a spokesman at the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon, said there was no damage reported at the base.

## EUROPE: The Poorer Economies Are Enjoying New Prosperity

Continued from Page 1

Rodrigo Rato, Spain's economics minister. "We are all moving toward a new era of more competitiveness and more openness."

Ireland, one of the poorest countries in Western Europe in 1990, is rapidly catching up with the rest of Europe in terms of per capita income. Its economy is growing by more than 8 percent this year — compared with about 3 percent for the European Union as a whole.

Indeed, with real estate prices soaring and labor shortages cropping up in some areas, the biggest worry among economists is that Ireland is headed toward an overheated economy.

Spain and Portugal are growing at about 4 percent this year — faster than almost anywhere else on continental Europe. Their stock markets have been among the best performers in Europe, as investors have bet that interest rates will remain low and stable for years to come.

"It is a gift, essentially, a gift from abroad," said Miguel Sebastian, chief economist at Banco Bilbao Vizcaya in Madrid.

To be sure, part of the current boom is simply catch-up. These countries are bouncing back from past problems, in particular Spain's severe recession in the mid-1990s. Though Spain has generated about 400,000 new jobs since the start of 1997, its official unemployment rate is still 19 percent, one of the highest in Europe.

"What we are living through now is the rapid correction of past imbalances," said Ignacio Gomez-Montejó, Merrill Lynch's chief equity analyst in Madrid. "We are being rewarded for correcting our mistakes."

Meanwhile, the center-right government of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar has pushed through several reforms aimed at bolstering employment and investment. It has promoted fierce competition in banking and privatized about \$25 billion worth of state-owned companies. And soon after taking power in 1996, Mr. Aznar's government drastically cut the tax on capital gains, reducing the top rate to about 20 percent from

more than 60 percent. Now the government is pushing through a much broader tax reform that would reduce income tax rates by closing loopholes.

The government, under Mr. Aznar and his predecessor, Felipe Gonzalez, has also made it easier for companies to hire workers on temporary contract. Though full-time jobs are still relatively scarce, temporary jobs have soared. But perhaps the biggest change in Spain is one of outlook: a new willingness by domestic companies to look abroad for opportunities. Since joining the European Union in 1986, Spain has steadily increased its volume of trade with the rest of Europe. As recently as 1990, Spanish exports and imports comprised about 40 percent of the country's gross domestic product. Today, foreign trade in both directions comprises about 70 percent, the lion's share with other European countries.

The new confidence is apparent in Elche, a city on Spain's southern coast that is the heart of its shoe industry. Bolstered by low interest rates and cheap money, nearly 50 companies are building factories and office buildings at the city's newest industrial park.

"Financial costs used to account for about 5 percent of a company's expenses," said Jose Pertusa Romero, a partner in Gesem, a consulting firm in Elche. "But in the last year, interest rates have declined, and those costs have been cut in half."

Juan Peran, the founder of Pikolinos SA, exemplifies the new mood. A small, wiry craftsman who started his company from scratch in the mid-1970s, Peran spent years stamping out cheap plastic shoes. But five years ago he began designing and marketing his own line of high-fashion shoes for the export market.

The strategy has worked. Pikolinos has more than tripled its sales volume since 1992, to 1.1 million pairs of shoes from about 300,000, and the profit on each pair has increased significantly. About 80 percent of the company's sales are to other European countries.

Mr. Peran recently moved the company into a gleaming glass-covered building at the industrial park. There,

shoe designers work out their ideas by creating three-dimensional models on computers, and robotic cutting machines transfer those ideas into precise strips of leather that are then sewn into prototypes.

"I am still a shoemaker, but this is the way we create about 80 percent of our designs," Mr. Peran said.

Economic growth is bolstering job gains in Spain, Portugal and Ireland. Though Spain's unemployment rate remains high, economists and government agencies calculate that about 400,000 new jobs have been added since the start of 1997, and many others have probably been created in the underground economy.

Portugal has had even greater success. Its unemployment rate has declined to about 6.3 percent from 7.3 percent in 1996 — about half the level of Germany and France. And Ireland, with employment of 1.3 million, has added 50,000 jobs since 1995.

Though the evidence is mixed, many economists say the trend toward hiring people in "peripheral" countries stems partly from lower wages but perhaps more from greater flexibility, even though labor laws are often just as strict.

In Ireland, economists say the quality of workers is at least as important as the cost of wages. "Most of the new jobs are coming from knowledge-intensive industries, not labor-intensive industries," said Terry Baker, an economist at the Economic and Social Research Institute in Dublin.

Fifty percent of people entering the work force in Ireland have college educations, and their educations have often been tailored toward technical skills. Ireland's biggest growth areas have been in computer and software companies, from Microsoft to Dell Computer to Intel.

Spain has loosened its work rules. Although full-time permanent workers benefit from some of the strongest job-protection laws of any nation, new laws allow companies to hire workers on temporary contracts — often for years at a time. About one-third of all workers in Spain are on temporary contracts, one of the highest levels in the world.

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## OPINION/LETTERS

## New Attention to National Status Could Make the World Safer

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — Geo-economics has obviously become the dominant force driving international relations. The end of the Cold War with its sharply marked frontiers has reduced the importance of geopolitics, although not to the degree argued by some specialists who consider NATO irrelevant and the European Union infinitely expandable. But there is a rising source of tension that can be called geo-psychology.

It is not new. Status, ranking in the world, has always been a consideration for states, alongside the influence that actual power brings. Now, however, it is becoming a prime factor that distorts conventional strategic analysis and cannot be overlooked.

Russia is the most obvious current example. Whatever else it disagrees on, the Russian establishment is unanimously hypersensitive about making sure that Russia continues to be regarded as a great power, in big things and small. That many will tell you, is the real reason they are so upset by the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which they do not see as a military threat but as a psychological one that could produce a backlash of nationalism.

Chinese satisfaction with the deferential warmth displayed by President Bill Clinton on his nine-day trip was more geo-psychology than any substantive gain or agreement. What mattered to Beijing was the symbolism, given added relative weight by his willingness to skip a courtesy stop in Japan.

It is evidently geo-psychology that underlies India's determination to be, and to be recognized as, a nuclear power. Pakistan feels a need for protection against India's overwhelming conventional force, and likes the idea of "nuc. too."

Despite India's references to the need for a "minimum deterrent" against China, New Delhi's statements make it clear that it was long-simmering resentment at what seemed to be the world's disregard for India's weight that decided the nationalist-leaning coalition gov-

ernment to hold and publicize nuclear tests.

A European diplomat asked authoritative Indians why, if they felt the need for nuclear weapons, they did not copy the Israeli tactic of building them without attracting international opprobrium by vaulting it. That had been the strategy. An unidentified Indian "senior official" formally told Western correspondents last week:

**It is necessary to acknowledge that some states are more equal than others.**

that India already has atomic arms that it could use and the systems to deliver them. This has been suspected for some time. But beyond the thesis of deterrence, India craved recognition.

A New Delhi communiqué, denouncing the joint U.S.-Chinese summit call for both India and Pakistan to curb a possible arms race, was blunt. It said:

"India categorically rejects the notion of these two countries arrogating to themselves joint or individual responsibility for the maintenance of peace, stability, and security in the region. This approach reflects the hegemonic mentality of a bygone era in international relations and is completely unacceptable and out of place in the present-day world."

The Indians have a point in complaining that despite their size and numbers, they are routinely put in a class well below China in status. And they can make a fair argument that with the end of a two-superpower world, permanent membership in the UN Security Council is by no means an evident measure of importance.

It happens that the five permanent members are all nuclear powers, the only avowed ones until the Indian and Pakistani tests. But none had atomic weapons when the council membership and its rules were adopted, not even the United States.

De Gaulle practiced geo-psychology to the hilt, in purely ceremonial and sometimes peevishly iconoclastic ways as well as by insisting on joining the "nuclear club." From

the French point of view, it worked. There is a profound contradiction between reality and the UN founding principle of the sovereign equality of all states. Geo-psychology is an attempt to bridge the gap by induced perception. The urge cannot be ignored. There is no inherent reason why possession of nuclear arms should be the test, and many reasons for rejecting it. But then there has to be some other way to acknowledge that some states are, at the least, more equal than others.

This is a problem of the gradual transition in the way nations deal with each other. The Group of Seven, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Security Council are devices for establishing categories, in many ways arbitrary. Other measures, other protocols are needed to satisfy the need for symbolic importance so that it doesn't have to go nuclear.

Psychologists should be recruited along with diplomats and military staff to sort out ways to accommodate sensitivities that do not really require weapons, or spheres of influence or even money, but do provoke tangible irritation. Geo-psychology is harder than geopolitics, but if it is taken into account it is less dangerous.

Flora Lewis

## WHAT DO THEY THINK WE ARE—A TOBACCO COMPANY?



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Australia's Future

Regarding "Unconventional Leaders Rise on a Wave of Anger" by Keith D. Suter and "Australians Need to Hold This Party's Racist Bonfire" by Denis Warner (Opinion, July 3):

The claim by successive governments that Australia is an integral part of Asia masks the fact that Australia is not Asian, any more than it is European or American.

What Pauline Hanson's One Nation party has done is to call the bluff of the federal politicians by opposing the "Asianization" of Australia. This fear, which has as much credibility as the belief that Australia's future lies in Asia, is responsible for the popular backlash delivered in the Queensland state elections.

Mr. Hanson's underlying appeal has less to do with economics, racism or the extreme right than with a manifest desire of the

Australian people as a whole for their political leaders to emphasize the uniquely Australian character of the country's national identity and the international scope of its interests.

The real threat to Australia's future development and harmony is constitutional. The country will not rid itself of its Hansons and hang-ups unless it becomes a republic by the year 2000.

R. S. MERRILLIES

Mailly-le-Château, France.

## More Than Owners

In response to "Consider the Record of 'Popular Capitalism' in America" (Opinion, July 3) by Felix G. Rohatyn:

Nowhere in the article are the words "citizen" and "democracy." Instead, Mr. Rohatyn writes about "owners." What about the 56 percent of American families that have no stock holdings? Recent articles in your pages

have lamented the loss of civic spirit in the United States. Is this surprising in the face of a dominant ideology that would subtly replace the town meeting with yet another marketplace?

ARTHUR PERKINS

Paris.

Regarding "No Need to Fret About Europe's Invasion of America" (Opinion, June 30) by Richard Pells:

Americans should realize the importance of cultural and intellectual exchanges with Europe, not for the purpose of pushing American economic and social policies but as an opportunity to learn from Europe about being socially conscious in a market driven economy. Perhaps we Americans can find a middle ground, allowing for a healthy economy while securing some of the social benefits we have all but lost.

MARTIN BISCHOFF

Paris.

## A Tale of a Camp Guard Who Questions a Judge

By Richard Cohen

WASHINGTON — The book came and then it went. I read an early review, was intrigued and went down to the bookstore, but they knew nothing about it. I shopped the Internet, too, but came up empty-handed at the time — nothing under the title and nothing under the author. It was called "The Reader," and it was written by Bernhard Schlink. "Read this," the literary critic George Steiner wrote in the British weekly *The Observer*. "Read it again."

Now I have. This is a word-of-mouth book. A friend said he had heard from a friend who had heard from someone else. I would like to put all these people in a room and

He does not answer. On the day I finished "The Reader," I read in the paper that Volkswagen would set up a fund to compensate Nazi-era slave laborers. For VW, this was an about-face. It had earlier maintained that it owed nothing. The company had followed government orders. The government owed the workers, not VW.

In other words: What would you have done?

When I visited the town in Poland where my mother was born and all the remaining Jews exterminated, I went to the cemetery. The tombstones had been looted, many of the graves, too. The earth kept pushing up bones: leg bones and arm bones and even, according to one person, skulls the kids used as soccer balls.

It is the same with the Holocaust itself. It is long gone, but it keeps pushing up these questions. What is Volkswagen's moral obligation? How about the Swiss and their gold and the Hungarians and their art and all the people everywhere who loved a painting so much they could not bring themselves to ask where it had come from?

A 15-year-old has sex with an older woman. He falls in love. The affair empowers him. He is a child at home, a man away from it. He reads to the woman. It is what she prefers. He gets to know her. He learns later that she is a war criminal, but he knows why. It doesn't alter the crime. It doesn't even alter how he feels about the woman.

"I wanted simultaneously to understand Hanna's crime and to condemn it," Michael (not Mr. Schlink) writes. "But it was too terrible for that. When I tried to understand it, I had the feeling I was failing to condemn it as it must be condemned. When I condemned it as it must be condemned, there was no room for understanding."

Mr. Schlink is a professor of law in Berlin, a judge, too. He was born, as was Michael, during the war and so he is a member of that generation of Germans who looked to their parents and asked: How? Why? How could you?

In Hanna, he created a character, killer though she was, whom I understood and therefore could not condemn. She will endure if only because she framed the question which none of us can answer: What would you have done? Washington Post Writers Group.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

## BOOKS

## BLESS THE THIEF

By Alan Wall, 211 pages, \$22. Crown.

Reviewed by David Nicholson

THIS strange little novel veers between the sacred and the profane, exploring such questions as the relationship between good and evil, the nature of myth and the meaning of symbols. At its best, "Bless the Thief" teases us with mystery, as those existential and philosophical matters entwined with the central character's more personal questions about his origins. When the book explains the latter, however, it descends into the mundane and becomes far less satisfying.

That central character is Thomas Lynch, the narrator. We meet him as a boy in New Jersey, where his American mother has taken him after his English father's death on the Hindenburg. We follow him to the Catholic boys' school in England that he must attend according to the terms of his father's bequest and then on to Oxford. But if Tom is in the foreground of the novel, the mysterious artist Alfred Delaqua looms nearby.

Though he never appears in the book, from time to time we read excerpts from Delaqua's diaries, and from these we learn that he was one of those tortured souls hounded (and damned) with the ability to see and feel more than ordinary people. (The title, "Bless the Thief," is from a Delaqua epigram: "Bless the thief, for he lightens your burden.")

Delaqua's journey to wisdom in London and Paris involved excess: alcohol and drugs, sex with prostitutes, a flirtation with black magic and then a return to Catholicism. What survives him are his diaries and about 50 books, all sumptuous and literally unique — they are handmade editions of one, handsomely printed and bound, with Delaqua's pen-and-ink drawings tipped in. They are owned by members of the Delaqua Society, an exclusive club with only a few rules: The books may not be sold, only exchanged for other Delaqua. And, because Delaqua despised mechanical reproduction, they may not be reproduced. While still at school, Tom is invited to join the society by Patrick Grimshaw, the head-

master and his mentor. He accepts the conditions, and the Delaqua edition of "Paradise Lost."

"I was already turning the pages of this book," he tells us, "those extraordinary first pages. My life was already unraveling." Delaqua "had not merely illustrated the book, he had somehow in the process illuminated the text."

Because of the juxtaposition of word and image, he had made the text on the page unique too. Tom begins to copy Delaqua's drawings, though Grimshaw is uneasy when he asks whether Delaqua would have allowed the reproduction of his books by hand. Yes, Grimshaw replies, because "the person who could reproduce him so personally and entirely would by necessity have had to endure the same truths that he did... would therefore have become indistinguishable from himself."

As the novel proceeds, Tom learns the painful truth of that last, as he embarks on a course that almost destroys him. In the end, "Bless the Thief" turns out to be about Tom's loss of innocence, his journey through self-degradation to a realization that some sort of redemption is possible. It's a bleak book, and a little difficult at times. Then, too, while its author offers a number of explanations, some — like Tom's confession about why he hates his mother — seem perfunctory. Other matters — the relationship of Tom's father to Donna, an-

other of Tom's lovers — are never explained. But there's a sense in which this book cannot be easily parsed. In that way, it's like poetry. Some images — the angels falling from the sky — linger long after you've finished it, as does a sense of its mystery and sweetness.

David Nicholson, a Washington author, wrote this for The Washington Post.

## THE JOB

By Douglas Kennedy, 387 pages, \$23.95. Hyperion.

Reviewed by Christopher Lehmann-Haupt

BUSINESS was good today. I wheeled, I dealt, I schmoozed, I CLOSED. Thus speaks Ned Allen at the opening of Douglas Kennedy's harrowing tale of downward mobility, "The Job."

Ned is the successful young Northeast regional advertising sales manager for CompWorld, the third-biggest computer magazine in America. He meets his quotas. He earns his bonuses. He makes just enough to support the free-spending Manhattan life he lives with his wife, Lizzie, a rising star in a public-relations company. Everything looks good for Ned and Lizzie when a crisis suddenly looms. A German company buys CompWorld, promising not to interfere so long as advertising quotas continue to be met. But when one of Ned's salesmen fails to

close a major deal, Ned is given the choice of either accepting the loss and losing his job or rescuing the deal and being promoted to publisher. The only catch is that by taking the latter course he is forced to play dirty and double-cross a friend.

As a result, everything blows up in Ned's face. Just as he is about to take his promotion, the company is sold again and CompWorld is killed. Ned finds himself out of a job and unable to find another because of the enemies he has made. Lizzie leaves him, and he begins a downward spiral so powerfully narrated and dizzying that you find yourself thinking of Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" and David Mamet's "Glengarry Glen Ross."

So bleak and depressing is Kennedy's story that you begin to wonder what the point of it all will be. Is the novel a comment on ambition? Or a plea for moral conduct in business? Or a variation on the Book of Job?

As things turn out, Kennedy appears equally at sea about what he is up to in "The Job." Instead of resolving the bruising issues he has raised, he eventually turns his story into a thriller about a murderous conspiracy that Ned runs afoul of in his endless search for another job.

Just as he did in his previous novel, "The Big Picture," Kennedy loses control of his material and leaves the reader not dazzled or emotionally purged but merely entertained.

New York Times Service

## BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

SOME bridge hands have curious features. In reading the following description of the diagrammed deal, see if you can spot the oddity. It was played at the Greater New York Bridge Association's Reisinger Knockout Teams, Sitting East and West were Janet and Mel Colchamiro of Merrick, New York, whose team reached the final.

North opened one diamond, East overcalled one spade, and South's one no-trump bid ended the proceedings. West led the spade ten, which was allowed to win, and South ducked again when the eight was led, throwing a

club from dummy. West shifted to a low diamond, and dummy won with the ace. South tried a low heart to the queen and lost to the king.

West led another low diamond, and dummy won with the king. The heart eight was led, in an attempt to establish a seventh trick in that suit, and West won with the jack. He returned his low heart, and South misguessed by playing the ace. He exited with the remaining heart, and West won and led the diamond jack.

South won with the queen and led a club to the ten. But West produced the queen and cashed two diamond winners to defeat the contract by two tricks.

So what was unusual about this? It is not that South began with six tricks and wound up with five. It is that West's seven-point hand took all eight of the defenders' tricks.

NORTH (D)  
♠ 9  
♥ A983  
♦ AKQ62  
♣ 175

WEST  
♠ 108  
♥ K104  
♦ 10853  
♣ Q4

SOUTH  
♠ A7632  
♥ Q65  
♦ 9  
♣ A1062

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 NT Pass  
West led the spade ten.

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مكتبة الامارات

## Birthplace Of Spanish Language

San Millan Is Site  
Of First Writings

By Al Goodman

**S**AN MILLAN DE LA COGOLLA, Spain — The site where the earliest form of the Spanish language was written down for the first time, more than 900 years ago, has been changing of late.

A four-star hotel now occupies a rehabilitated part of the large twelfth-century monastery here, which is still used by 10 Augustinian Recollect friars. In December, UNESCO declared the big monastery and the smaller, older one up the hill a World Heritage Site.

Then on June 15, the regional government of Rioja unveiled the "Route of the Spanish Language," which starts in San Millan and includes five other locations in north-central Spain that had a big influence on Spanish.

The route, meant to be self-guiding over several days, makes stops at the Santo Domingo de Silos monastery, where the monks became international stars in 1994 with their Gregorian chant recordings, and then at the former royal city of Valladolid, the University of Salamanca, the walled city of Avila and finally, Alcala de Henares, the birthplace town of Miguel de Cervantes.

Historians do not agree on the exact date for the first penned words that were the precursor for Spanish, but there is general consensus that the writings occurred in San Millan.

Situated in the verdant Cardenas River valley 295 kilometers (183 miles) north of Madrid, the town is named for the reclusive St. Millan, who lived many of his 101 years in the fifth and sixth centuries in cold, damp caves. The hotel offers considerably more comfort and is a suitable base from which to explore the origins of Spanish, now spoken by about 350 million people worldwide.

The language theme is evident even in the hotel's 25 rooms, (doubles cost 12,840 pesetas, about \$85, including tax), which all have framed reproductions of a crucial folio from a 10th-century parchment prayer book in Latin, the refined vernacular of the day.

Many historians say that in the late 11th century, monks began writing non-Latin words in the margins of the prayer book, annotating a language spoken by lay people.

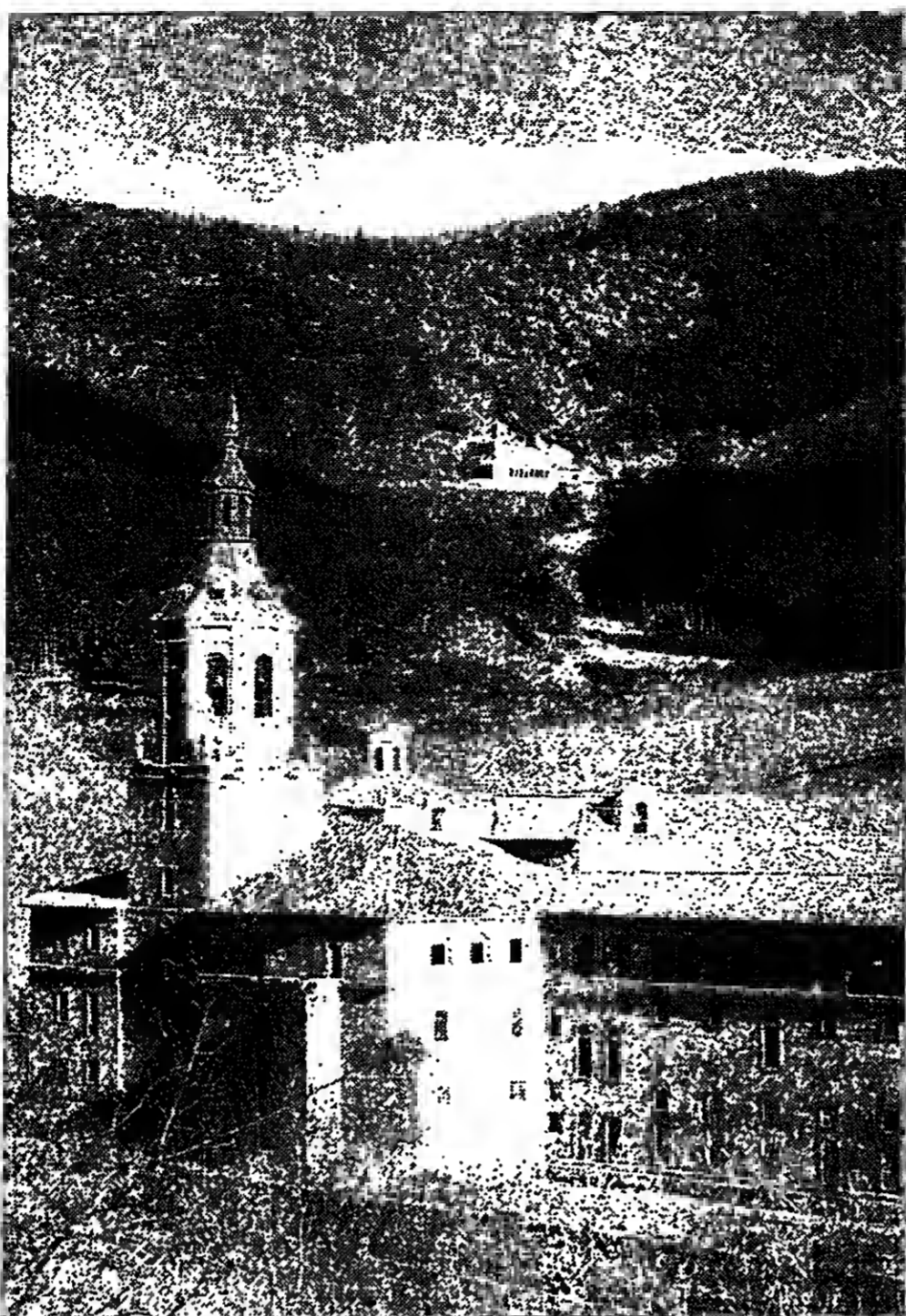
"It's a very primitive Spanish, but it is no longer Latin," said Antonio Lopez Gomez, of the Royal Academy of History in Madrid, where the original book is safeguarded, shown only to professional researchers by appointment.

In the hotel rooms, the prayer book's folio 72 is reproduced because it has the longest annotation in early Spanish, which begins, "With the help of our Lord, our Lord Christ, Our Savior."

A leading Spanish scholar, Claudio Garcia Turza of the University of La Rioja, said the unidentified monks probably made their notes to understand the prayers they were studying, or to recite aloud the non-Latin words so that the faithful would better comprehend the religious services.

Garcia Turza recently found evidence of early Spanish annotations from the 10th century, 100 years before the widely recognized 11th-century writings. But even if further study confirms the finding, San Millan need not relinquish its claim as the "cradle of Castilian" because the early writings all came from books at the Suso (upper) monastery, one and a half kilometers uphill from the hotel.

In the sixth century, St. Millan lived in a grotto on the secluded promontory, giving seed to the Suso monastery, a fortified outpost of learning in medieval times. Its caves and distinctive architecture, including seventh-century Visigoth



The writings were done at the older Suso monastery, uphill from the Yuso monastery.

styles and 10th-century Mozarabic arches, can still be seen, with free admission.

But the building where the early Spanish annotations were made is no longer standing, and the monastery ceased functioning last century. Long before, in the 11th century, a king ordered the remains of St. Millan to be buried in the valley below, thus starting the larger Yuso (lower) monastery.

Most of its graceful stone complex with red-tile roof dates from the 16th to 18th centuries. The Yuso tour, for 400 pesetas, includes a look at another reproduction of the early Spanish writings, a fascinating collection of 18th-century oversized prayer books and the alabaster sarcophagi with its flamboyant depictions of angels.

In recent years, the cash-strapped friars ceded a rectangular wing of the monastery for a hotel. In exchange, the Rioja regional government improved the heating system in the cavernous monastery, rehabilitated the friars' bedrooms and installed an elevator.

**T**HE monastery has become such an attraction that it had 100,000 visitors last year, perhaps a surprise to those who usually associate the Rioja region with sturdy red wines, not the origins of Spanish.

A thick stone wall separates the monastery from the hotel, which opened in 1995. The best guest rooms, numbered 203 to 211, overlook the garden entrance to the monastery and to a hillside covered with pines and shrubs.

Room 203 commands a corner of the building, with plenty of light streaming in through four arched double doors with shuttered, double-paned windows. The firm twin beds are pushed together (the hotel has just one double bed) on the polished

wooden floor. A minibar and satellite television permit an easy connection to the secular world.

Downstairs, the Continental breakfast is a dull disappointment at 950 pesetas per person, in sharp contrast to the delightful dinner for two of hearty noodle soup, a thick sirloin and lamb chops with full garnish, dessert, and a half-bottle of a 1995 Rioja Puerta Vieja, for 8,450 pesetas.

To work off the meals, try the extensive nearby hiking trails. Take the narrow paved road up the valley for two kilometers to the hamlet of Lugar del Rio (Place on the River). Continue another kilometer and a half and cross a noisy metal grate in the road to enter a nature reserve where picnicers park their cars in a meadow beside the river. To the right, up a steep gravel road and by a small structure, is the start of a footpath that is roughly parallel to the river and above the road.

We tried the same route on old mountain hikes, rented at the hotel for 1,070 pesetas, for a few hours before lunch.

St. Millan lived his first stint in a cave far up this valley, dominated by the 2,271-meter (7,467-foot) St. Lorenzo peak. He later relocated to caves downstream where the Suso monastery was built, and where, centuries later, a new language took form.

Hosteria del Monasterio de San Millan, (34) 941-373-277, or e-mail: smillan@iol.es. Suso monastery tours, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. and 4 P.M. to 7 P.M. in summer, except Monday. Yuso monastery visits, daily in summer from 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. and 4 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

Al Goodman, who writes for The New York Times from Spain, wrote this for the International Herald Tribune.

## Mayfair Casinos Gamble On Asian High Rollers But Financial Crisis Raises the Stakes

By David Spanier

**L**ONDON — The ebb tide in Asian financial markets has caused a ripple in a surprising place — the casinos of Mayfair. Across the green baize of the highest stakes tables in Europe, Asian gamblers are calling, "Rien ne va plus."

This is bad news for the casino sector. The clubs around Park Lane and Piccadilly depend almost entirely on the high-roller market. Now these elegant casinos — the antithesis of Las Vegas brass and flash — are feeling the backwash of the Asian crisis. Most of the high rollers, gamblers who will play up to half a million or even a million pounds (\$1.6 million) in a single night, hail from the Far East.

Their money may not have all gone down the chute with the stock market turmoil, but their confidence has evaporated. And confidence is the essence of gambling.

Since the financial crisis hit countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong, as well as Japan, the high rollers have more or less disappeared. They still come to town, on business or for medical treatment, but they are not gambling in the heady, carefree way they used to.

Throwing down a gauntlet to the gods of chance, the biggest casino group in town, London Clubs International, has just opened the most swank, plush casino on the whole Mayfair strip. Named 50 St. James, this magnificent mansion, formerly the Jamaican government office, has been set up and refurbished at a cost of £6 million as a veritable temple for high rollers.

"We are quite confident we can overcome our recent difficulties," Alan Goodenough, chief executive of London Clubs International, said at a recent annual meeting. The company reported an £8 million decline in profits in the year ending March 29. Goodenough also predicted numerous challenges in the year ahead.

In 18th-century opulence, with gold leaf and marble adorning its floors and ceilings, 50 St. James opened its doors with a succession of parties for the haut monde of gambling. Inside the house, footmen with flaming torches lighted the way up the grand curving staircase fanning out to the casino floor. The dining room, by contrast, is in Art Deco style, in chrome and wood, shaped like the interior of an ocean liner.

**PLAYING IN PRIVATE** At the heart of the new casino, which opened last week, are two private rooms, on either side of the entrance hall in feng shui balance. Here high rollers can gamble in seclusion, hidden from the curious or covetous eyes of regular punters in the main casino, where the lower-level gamblers go.

English is spoken, of course, but the British cannot afford to gamble for such high stakes — £1,000 or maybe £2,000 on a single number at

roulette, £25,000 a box at blackjack, up to £100,000 a hand at punto banco (as baccarat is known). Typically, the British bet in modest sums, indulging their gambling instincts with the National Lottery at £1 a ticket.

The highest of the high rollers are known in casino parlance as "whales." These are players for whom money, in the normal sense of the word, has no meaning — they are, in fact, far wealthier than the casinos where they play.

What they like to do is sit down in a private room and take on the casino, to see who will blink first. They may win a million in 40 minutes, they may play all night. The casinos love their action, but at the same time are frankly terrified of them.

A player like Kerry Packer, the Australian entrepreneur and polo enthusiast, takes a particular pleasure in tilting at casinos. In Las Vegas he has tried to raise the stakes at baccarat to allow him to wager \$1 million a hand. Considering that 40 or 50 hands may be dealt in an hour, this is too risky for any casino, even though the odds are in his favor. The size of the action in London may be gauged by the fact that the billionaire arms trader Adnan Khashoggi recently settled gambling debts of several million pounds after being sued by London Clubs International.

**A**FTER the whales comes another important category of player, described as Asian "old money." These are discreet, established players who have made a fortune in finance or industry and who gamble for very high stakes as a form of relaxation. As one casino executive explained, such people can control more or less everything else in their lives except the turn of a card — for them, that is the thrill.

They differ from Asian "new money" — people who have made it, one way or another, in business. These players are well aware of their own value and seem to relish the risk involved in gambling.

London Clubs International and other casino operators, like Capital Corp., are adept at looking after these different kinds of clients. They strive to make the clients' visits to town as agreeable as possible. But what if the Asians are not coming or not playing? Fortunately, there are other premium players, notably from the Arab world, which helps spread the risk.

But London Clubs International has been hit by another blow. The company faces a bill of £12 million a year, if a new government tax on casinos is not modified.

In addition, a new operator, the Monte Carlo-based Barclay Brothers, has obtained a license for London Clubs International's former premises at the Ritz, which it vacated to open 50 St. James. This will bring the total number of casinos in London to 23. No wonder the operators are hoping the Asian collapse will soon be settled.

David Spanier is a free-lance journalist based in London.



The 50 St. James casino, refurbished at a cost of £6 million, on the Mayfair strip.

### DINING

## A Paris Institution Reinvents Its Menu

By Patricia Wells  
International Herald Tribune

**P**ARIS — Some city restaurants have an uncanny way of allowing themselves to be reinvented for each generation of diners. Pierre au Palais Royal, situated behind the Comedie Francaise, is one of those endlessly flexible restaurants.

Owners, waiters and waitresses change, but this longtime beacon of true French bourgeois fare remains steadfast. Well, sort of.

The restaurateur Jean-Paul Arabian (formerly of Lille and Ledoyen in Paris) has taken over, giving the cozy restaurant a face-lift and wisely altering the menu to please a broader range of palates while remaining true to the cause.

Fashion has fads so why shouldn't food? And since it's not likely that the world will end its love affair with pasta and rice anytime soon, Arabian offers a bit of each, along with such Pierre favorites as foie gras, organ meats, steak, boeuf à la ficelle, roast duck with peas, and the extraordinary cheeses of Paris's best cheesemonger, Roger Allouesse.

A recent dinner there was close to perfect. It began with a modern and refreshing gazpacho — lots of minutely chopped vegetables in a slightly spicy tomato broth — set off with a tartare of tuna and a flourish of fresh herbs.

Less exciting, and an old-fashioned preparation that might as well be scratched from the books, was an overcooked, soggy portion of white asparagus topped with a needless rectangle of puff pastry, all bathed in a buttery sauce

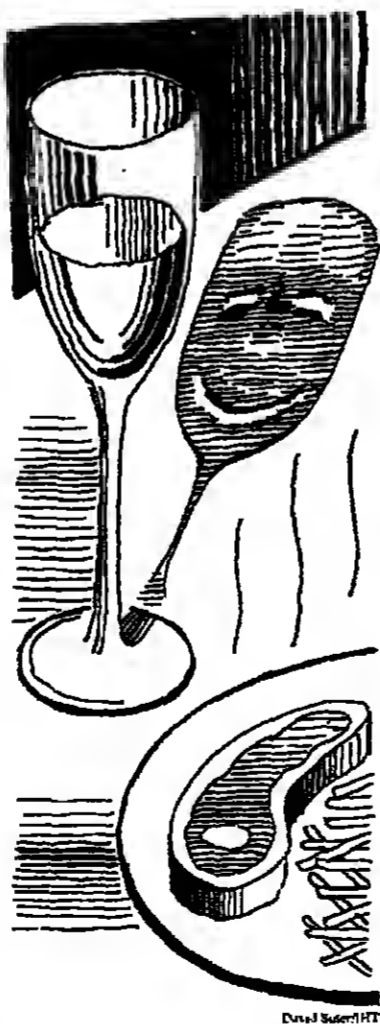
mousseline. Even at its best, I think this dish speaks of days past. Today we like our asparagus a bit less gussied up, and certainly less cooked.

The pastas and rice are a revelation, in that they are FRENCH versions, not Italian. And once the French learn how to cook pasta and rice — Italy, watch out. The spaghetti with *palourdes* was distinctly French tasting, with a broth that had a rich, substantive base. The clams could have been cleaned a bit better, but the overall effect was truly satisfying. Ditto for the risotto that bound delicious fresh *girolles* (chanterelles) and another variety of mushroom, *mousserons*, to the firm grains of rice, bathed in a densely flavored stock.

For the culinary classicists, Pierre offers giant portions of veal tongue, *lingue de veau*, poached and served with a brilliant fricassée of seasonal vegetables. Perhaps the dish most often ordered here is the pan-seared *entrecôte*, a beef rib steak beautifully cooked and served with a green salad and a gargantuan mound of crisp, hand-cut fries. Desserts were fine but nothing to rave about. The *millefeuille à la fraise*, or thin squares of puff pastry layered with cream and fresh strawberries, was on the bland side, as was the traditional cherry flan, or *clafoutis aux cerises*.

The wine list is limited but includes a nice selection of Chinon, the fine light red Burgundy Marsannay from Domaine Bruno Clair, the 1994 priced at 195 francs (\$32).

On the evening of our visit, smokers were ubiquitous and annoying, so go forewarned.



Pierre au Palais-Royal, 10, rue de Richelieu, Paris 1; tel: 01-42-06-09-17; fax: 01-42-96-27-17. Open until midnight. Closed Sunday and in August. Valet parking, evenings only. Air-conditioned. A la carte, 215 to 350 francs (\$35 to \$55), including service but not wine.

## Luxury at a Bargain in Vietnam

By Philip Shenon  
New York Times Service

**H**O CHI MINH CITY — The great Vietnamese tourism boom, which turned this into one of the most fashionable destinations in Asia in the early 1990s, has begun to evaporate. The drop-off in tourism to Vietnam offers travelers an opportunity to see this beautiful, long-isolated nation at a bargain price — and at a level of comfort that would once have been unthinkable here.

The Vietnamese tourism industry is being battered by the Asian economic crisis, which has cut off the flow of tourists from other Asian countries, and by dramatic overbuilding in the hotel industry.

Tourism has also suffered because Vietnam, unlike Thailand and some of its other neighbors, has not seen a major devaluation of its currency over the last year, which has created at least the impression that other Asian nations offer better value.

In the first three months of this year, 410,000 tourists visited Vietnam, a drop of about 5 percent from the same period a year earlier. The drop is especially significant when measured against the explosive growth in tourism since 1990, when only 250,000 foreign travelers arrived in Vietnam during the entire year. Last year there were 1.7 million foreign visitors, who spent an estimated total of \$560 million.

The number of tourists began to decline just as dozens of new hotels, many of them financed by American and other foreign investors who were

encouraged to put their money here after the lifting of the American economic embargo in 1994, began to open in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon.

As a result, thousands of hotel rooms go empty each night, with many new luxury hotels reporting occupancy rates as low as 20 percent.

The glut will worsen in coming months, as a Marriott opens in Ho Chi Minh City and a Hilton opens a block from the French colonial opera house in Hanoi (managers at the latter are girding themselves for a rash of nifty jokes comparing their hotel to the "Hanoi Hilton," the jail for American prisoners during the Vietnam War).

### HOTELS AT BUDGET RATES

Impoverished after decades of war, Vietnam had no resources to build new hotels until the Communist government decided to end its isolation and to allow foreign investors to return here in large numbers in the early 1990s. It took years for supply to catch up with demand; as recently as 1996 a tourist looking for only the most basic accommodation in Hanoi would need to reserve a room weeks in advance.

But today a visitor can walk up to the front desk of several five-star hotels in Vietnam's major cities and find check-in clerks eager to negotiate a budget rate.

The fabled Caravelle Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City, a haunt of foreign correspondents during the war, has undergone a multimillion-dollar renovation that has turned it into a marble-draped palace complete with

rooftop swimming pool. It is offering rooms for \$89 a night, including all taxes and a full buffet breakfast.

The city's most modern luxury hotel, the New World Saigon, is offering rooms with a spectacular view out toward the Saigon River for \$95 a night, taxes included, which is less than half the basic rate it was charging a year ago.

Budget travelers will find even better bargains at the hundreds of small family-run inns that dot the city.

In the 1980s the restaurant offerings in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City were slim. Most restaurants were government-run, the food often inedible. But the arrival of a semblance of a free market in Vietnam in the early 1990s has resulted in hundreds of new privately owned restaurants. And for the hotels, restaurants are suffering badly. One pays budget prices for delicious, often spectacular Vietnamese and Western meals.

**D**INNER for two at the luxurious newly opened Mandarin restaurant, which specializes in classic Vietnamese cuisine and is set in a renovated French colonial villa on Ngo Van Nam Street near the river, is about \$35 for two, including wine.

The city is crowded with French restaurants — no surprise given Vietnam's colonial ties — and among the best is Le Mekong on Dong Du Street, which offers a daily set lunch for \$6.95. The New World serves a luncheon buffet for \$4.95, a favorite among backpacking tourists during the steamy summer here because of the hotel's hyperefficient air-conditioning.



**Thursday's 4 P.M. Close**  
The 2,600 most traded stocks of the day.  
Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.  
*The Associated Press.*

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**CLUE**

**Continued on Page 18**







The LQ30 most traded National Market securities  
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.  
The Associated Press.

姓名	性别	年龄	籍贯	职业	住址	备注
王德胜	男	45	山东	农民	山东省潍坊市	
李秀英	女	38	河北	工人	河北省石家庄市	
张国强	男	52	河南	教师	河南省郑州市	
刘小红	女	28	江苏	医生	江苏省南京市	
陈大明	男	60	浙江	商人	浙江省杭州市	
赵小丽	女	35	四川	护士	四川省成都市	
孙伟明	男	48	广东	工程师	广东省广州市	
周美华	女	32	湖北	记者	湖北省武汉市	
吴建国	男	55	安徽	教授	安徽省合肥市	
郑小芳	女	25	福建	歌手	福建省厦门市	
冯大刚	男	65	山西	退休	山西省太原市	
马丽娟	女	40	江西	会计	江西省南昌市	
徐志强	男	50	广西	司机	广西壮族自治区南宁市	
黄小梅	女	30	湖南	舞蹈家	湖南省长沙市	
郭大明	男	58	陕西	作家	陕西省西安市	
周小红	女	22	云南	学生	云南省昆明市	
孙伟华	男	42	贵州	公务员	贵州省贵阳市	
李秀华	女	36	海南	导游	海南省海口市	
张国强	男	53	重庆	律师	重庆市	
刘小红	女	29	四川	画家	四川省成都市	
陈大明	男	61	浙江	商人	浙江省杭州市	
赵小丽	女	34	江苏	教师	江苏省南京市	
孙伟明	男	49	广东	工程师	广东省广州市	
周美华	女	31	湖北	记者	湖北省武汉市	
吴建国	男	56	安徽	教授	安徽省合肥市	
郑小芳	女	26	福建	歌手	福建省厦门市	
冯大刚	男	66	山西	退休	山西省太原市	
马丽娟	女	41	江西	会计	江西省南昌市	
徐志强	男	51	广西	司机	广西壮族自治区南宁市	
黄小梅	女	31	湖南	舞蹈家	湖南省长沙市	
郭大明	男	59	陕西	作家	陕西省西安市	
周小红	女	23	云南	学生	云南省昆明市	
孙伟华	男	43	贵州	公务员	贵州省贵阳市	
李秀华	女	37	海南	导游	海南省海口市	
张国强	男	54	重庆	律师	重庆市	
刘小红	女	30	四川	画家	四川省成都市	
陈大明	男	62	浙江	商人	浙江省杭州市	
赵小丽	女	35	江苏	教师	江苏省南京市	
孙伟明	男	50	广东	工程师	广东省广州市	
周美华	女	32	湖北	记者	湖北省武汉市	
吴建国	男	57	安徽	教授	安徽省合肥市	
郑小芳	女	27	福建	歌手	福建省厦门市	
冯大刚	男	67	山西	退休	山西省太原市	
马丽娟	女	42	江西	会计	江西省南昌市	
徐志强	男	52	广西	司机	广西壮族自治区南宁市	
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周小红	女	24	云南	学生	云南省昆明市	
孙伟华	男	44	贵州	公务员	贵州省贵阳市	
李秀华	女	38	海南	导游	海南省海口市	
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刘小红	女	31	四川	画家	四川省成都市	
陈大明	男	63	浙江	商人	浙江省杭州市	
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刘小红	女	32	四川	画家	四川省成都市	
陈大明	男	64	浙江	商人	浙江省杭州市	
赵小丽	女	37	江苏	教师	江苏省南京市	

**Thursday's 4 P.M. Close**  
(Continued)

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July 9, 1998

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L - Luxembourg Francs; L - Swiss Francs; S  
Malaysian Ringgit; P - Pesetas; S - Swedish  
Singapore Dollars; S - Swiss Francs; S  
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## World Roundup

### Coach Gets Homage Mixed With Regrets

**SOCCER** L'Equipe, the French daily sports newspaper, on Thursday congratulated Aime Jacquet, the French national team coach, whom it had derided for years as a man who could not lead France to victory in the World Cup.

The newspaper, in an editorial signed by its editor, Jerome Bureau, said, "We clearly enough explained our defiance toward him before this World Cup so as not to be obligated today to offer this homage. We doubted his capacity to accompany this exceptional team to the highest level, but nonetheless he did it in his way."

"We continue not to share fundamental opinions on the style of play and to deeply regret certain choices, but as far as sports are concerned, it's obvious that only results count." (AFT)

### Selig Voted Commissioner

**BASERBALL** Bud Selig was unanimously elected baseball's ninth commissioner Thursday, nearly six years after he took over the post on an acting basis.

Selig owns the Milwaukee Brewers but will put the shares of his team in a trust. His election marks the first time an owner has been picked to fill the post. (AP)

### Nagano Counts Surplus

**OLYMPICS** Strong ticket sales and a weak yen helped the Nagano Olympics earn a \$32 million surplus, Sadao Shibamoto, an organizing committee official, said Thursday. The surplus will be used to promote sports in Japan. The total operating costs for the Winter Games were \$814 million. (AP)

### NHL Returns to Japan

**ICE HOCKEY** The Calgary Flames and San Jose Sharks will open the 1998-99 National Hockey League season with two games in Yoyogi Arena in Tokyo. The Mighty Ducks of Anaheim and the Vancouver Canucks opened last season with a pair of games in the same arena, drawing sellout crowds of 10,500 each night. (AP)

### Coach Quits Real Madrid

**SOCCER** Jose Antonio Camacho resigned as Real Madrid coach Thursday, three weeks after accepting the post.

Camacho, a former Real star, had signed a two-year contract with the European champion. Camacho resigned because the club would not guarantee the two-year contract of one of his assistants. (AFP)

### Moroccan to Referee Final

**SOCCER** FIFA, the governing body of soccer, said Thursday that Morocco's Said Belqola, a 41-year-old customs inspector, would referee the World Cup final Sunday between the defending champion, Brazil, and the host, France.

Belqola, who lives in Fez, refereed two earlier matches: Germany against the United States and Argentina against Croatia.

Marc Warren of England and Achmat Salie of South Africa will be Belqola's assistants. Abdel Rahman Zeid of Saudi Arabia is the reserve referee. (AFP)



Said Belqola, who will referee the final, showing a card during the Argentina-Croatia match.



Laurent Blanc, left, who was later ejected, embracing Lilian Thuram, who scored twice in France's 2-1 victory.

## Sadness Tinges the French Euphoria Key Defender's Suspension From Final Is a Disaster, Coach Says

By Rob Hughes  
International Herald Tribune

**CLAIRFONTAINE, France** — Lord knows how the French will celebrate if on Sunday they actually win the World Cup.

The crimson flares that lit up Paris, the unrelenting din of klaxon horns on the Champs-Elysees, the fluttering of tricolors that greeted victory in the semifinals have apparently been unparalleled since Liberation Day more than a half-century ago.

However, in the tranquility of Le Centre Technique National de Clairfontaine, where the triumphant French team eat, sleep and train, a sadness toned down the euphoria.

"Even having qualified for the final," said Aime Jacquet, the national team coach, "it is a disaster for us that Laurent Blanc who was our captain for three years and has done everything to resurrect our team will miss his final. The red card was unjust, and we have appealed to FIFA. You always hope."

Hours later came the inevitable confirmation of Blanc's suspension from the final against Brazil. Appeal dismissed. Blanc, 32, had never expected leniency. "I didn't dare hope," he said in the morning. "When the referee has given a red card it would have been unique for it to be removed. For me, it's a personal catastrophe, but I would never have been able to forgive myself if France had lost because of it. If we win the Cup, I will join in the party with mixed feelings."

He looked so calm, this man branded a villain. He is not injured, not full of recrimination toward the referee, not afraid to laugh at his misfortune. If there is anger, it is toward Slaven Bilic, the opponent whose exaggerated reaction to a mild push with the palm of Blanc's hand so sadly emphasized the blatant cheating that has run like a thief motif

through this World Cup. Bilic escaped without censure of any kind despite staggering back and holding his forehead as if he had been punched by Mike Tyson. There was contact, and Blanc was foolish to raise his hand in his 74th match for France. But the hand was nowhere near the forehead, Bilic knew it, the Spanish referee ought to have known it, and 80,000 people in the Stade de France, plus a billion of television viewers around the globe knew that once again a world class player had feigned injury to get a fellow professional sent off.

"Bilic came to me after the game," Blanc said. "He said he was sorry be-

cause he now understood that he had deprived me of appearing in the final."

Sorry!

"The first thing that crossed my mind," Blanc said, "was that I should give him a real punch in the face. But it would achieve nothing. I respect the referee, but what I did should only have been a yellow card and if the referee had been an ex-professional player he would have seen it was not really a blow from me."

"If you look at the video, you will see that he was holding me, and I pushed him away."

The video. It is a sore topic in soccer. The authorities have condoned the use of video to retrospectively ban the perpetrator of a bad foul, indeed to strike a referee off the list of top European games last season. Sepp Blatter, the new FIFA president, a few days ago chastised Jose-Manuel Garcia Aranda, a referee, for failing to expel Dennis Bergkamp, the Dutch player, for stamping on Yugoslavia's Sinisa Mihailovic earlier in this World Cup.

Garcia Aranda was the referee in charge of Wednesday's semifinal at Stade de France. He saw Blanc raise a

hand and red carded him. He apparently was encouraged by Bilic's play-acting, and he later mocked Robert Jarni, of Croatia, whom he indicated had feigned injury when palpably Jarni was struck by the elbow of Thierry Henry.

Garcia Aranda, under pressure from the lord in the stands, realized his error when blood spurted from Jarni's scalp, though he still gave Henry the benefit of all doubt and issued no foul, no card of any hue.

The performers, I have to say, are playing with the devil. Ronaldo, the finest player in the world, has fallen to the ground, dived to the ground, slumped to the ground at the merest hint of contact with an opponent which is crazy since he is a wonderfully built and powerful athlete who could benefit from staying on his feet.

He is the symbol of youth, the example to those who aspire to the game. But against all the fabulous talents that he has, he cheats. Let's keep saying it. Let's not allow the players, the officials, the game to hide from the evidence before our eyes.

**F**OR when players are genuinely hurt, the poor referee (and FIFA chooses many poor referees) are full of suspicion. One day, maybe even in Sunday's showpiece final, a player will suffer serious harm because he is wrongly adjudged to be acting.

Those in high authority who love to pontificate on Fair Play, have just a few days to get this one right. They can call Bilic to account for his misdeed toward Blanc. After all, Bilic is an intelligent man, a fine defender, and a player who in his spare time, in England, which is a foreign country to him, completed a degree in law.

The law has been an ass too long.

Rob Hughes is the chief sports writer of The Times of London.

## CARD: Soccer Players Faking Injuries Develop a New Art Form

Continued from Page 1

me, I reacted," Bilic said. "That's part of the game, to react."

Reacting is surely part of modern soccer. The Argentines were falling on the ground during their anthem. The Italians were flailing when they got off the bus. The Bulgarians were calling their concierge to complain about enemy cleats. There are allegedly yellow cards for diving, but the players know the tactic pays.

By the way, the French are not slouches at faking it. My personal favorite is Emmanuel Petit, with the blond ponytail and the elaborate mannerisms from a remake of the Three Musketeers.

Remember when Athos or Porthos, or maybe it was Harpo, fell to the ground with an enemy sword clattering on both sides of his poor punctured body? Kind of scary. But then he would jump back into the fray, shouting, "Eet ees only a flesh wound."

In soccer, it is almost always less than a flesh wound.

I keep imagining Michael Jordan going into convulsions every time somebody came near him. (Michael doesn't have to, you say. He's got the refs looking out for him. Good point.) I'd like to have seen good old Lawrence Taylor performing the Del Piero 1½ gainer, or good old Mark Messier doing the Ortega double spasm, or good old

Cal Ripken doing the Stoichkov death rattle. Come to think of it, the American soccer players can't dive, either.

On Friday, Blanc recalled the moment he got pulled into somebody else's sidewalk art performance. He's a 32-year-old pro with Olympic of Marseille.

"There was a free kick for us, so I don't see why I would hit him," Blanc said of Bilic. "I threw no elbow, no feet. He played his game to get me thrown out. Bilic came up to me after the game. He said he was sorry. The first thing that crossed my mind was that I should give him a real punch in the face."

I haven't seen that guy from Rome in years. I hope he is making a living coaching these actors.

## France Goes Wild, But Not at the Stade

Les Bleus Don't Feel the Passion of the Streets

By Christopher Clarey  
International Herald Tribune

**CLAIRFONTAINE, France** — Approximately 300,000 people converged on the Champs-Elysees in the early hours Thursday to celebrate the fact that France was finally in the final of the World Cup. It was instrumental in creating. There were hundreds of thousands more French supporters in the squares of Nantes, Montpellier, Bordeaux and even traditionally restrained Lyon.

But the team, whose 2-1 victory over Croatia in the semifinals had generated all this exuberance, just got on its bus and drove south for 45 minutes to its country home away from home — the national technical center for soccer — to begin preparing to face Brazil on Sunday.

The French team has trained here in the woods of Clairefontaine for years and been based here since June 8, two days before the World Cup began. It is a bucolic, attractive spot, but to hear the players tell it late Thursday morning, they have just about had their fill of tranquility, both inside and outside the confines of their rural retreat.

"It's a little bit disappointing to be here," said defender Marcel Desailly. "We'd like to be out in the cafes and on the Champs-Elysees ourselves. It's there where you can really get a sense of the impact."

Desailly and his teammates made it clear that their run to the final is the highlight of their careers. They also made it clear that they think they are not getting enough support during their games, and they were not referring to the record television audience of approximately 20.5 million in a nation of 58 million that watched them beat the Croatians. They were referring to the atmosphere inside the striking, new 80,000-seat Stade de France. Les Bleus have yet to lose there since it was inaugurated in January, but they also have yet to sense the kind of passion they see on their television screens and on the street corners they pass in their bus on their way to and from games.

"Our real fans are outside the stadium," said Didier Deschamps, the French captain. "It's easy for someone to do the wave when we score, but we need that support all the time. We need the same enthusiasm and joy that we can see outside the stadium. Inside the stadium, there are too many uptight people in suits and ties. This is not the theater. Our real public are the farmer or the laborer who are dressed in red, white and blue all day, but they probably cannot afford a ticket."

"It's normal to see people in suits and ties in the president's box, but it seemed like three-fourths of the fans were wearing suits and waiting for I don't know what. If they are invited by the sponsors, I have no problem with that. That's part of soccer these days, but I hope they wake up for the final. I don't want to hear the samba for 90 minutes."

Defender Frank Leboeuf, who will start against Brazil because of the red card Laurent Blanc was given against Croatia, suggested putting up a sign outside the Stade de France. "It should read: 'No suits allowed,'" Leboeuf said. "It's an offense to soccer, which is

a sport of the masses. Put on a T-shirt. Paint your face and start shouting."

In the final minutes of the match Lilian Thuram, the reserve goalkeeper, got off the bench and ran behind one of the goals, where he exhorted the crowd to cheer more loudly. "It bothered me to see this public so calm," he said. "We were playing with 10 men against 11, and I could hear the flies fly."

Charbonnier was not the only French reserve lobbying for less reserve.

Before the game, midfielder Robert Pires had asked President Jacques Chirac to shed his suit in favor of a French team jersey with the number 23 (there are 22 players on the French team). But the president declined to defy decorum and instead kept the shirt by his side during the match, although he brought it with him when he visited the team in their exuberant locker room afterwards.

By that time, fans already were in the streets of Paris. Unlike the English or the Dutch or even the Croatians, French fans don't have traditional soccer hymns to bond with. On Wednesday night, they settled for chanting "On est en finale!" ("We're in the final!") and, perhaps of greater interest to Mr. Chirac, "Thuram Pres-i-dent!" ("Thuram for President!").

It was a most heady evening for Lilian Thuram, the right back who scored both French goals. Thuram had never scored for the national team and had scored only once in his two seasons with Parma in the Italian first division. But suddenly he was the man of a most high-profile match: the man whose name was being shouted by his teammates on the bus.

"Desailly came up to me after my second goal and said, 'What's the matter with you?'" said Thuram, a thoughtful sort with a penchant for self-deprecation. "He told me all I usually do is kick the ball into the stands."

What surprised Thuram nearly as much as his sudden scoring touch was to see television footage of his father, why unlike President Chirac, was wearing a French jersey. Thuram's father left home when Thuram was still an infant in Guadeloupe.

"To be a father is not simply to bring a child into this world," Thuram said. "It is to take care of that child and to give him direction and guidance. It's my mother who always did this for me. I'm surprised that today, because of the World Cup and because the cameras are on my father that he puts on a jersey with my number on it and speaks of his son like a father. I don't see it that way. It's not just because the World Cup is going on that the priorities change."

What is definite is that the French lineup is again about to change. Blanc, one of the few links between the team that failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals and the team that has qualified for the final, will now have to watch his nation's most important match from the bench. In his customary spot next to Desailly will be Leboeuf, a lesser presence and lesser player with a greater sense of humor.

Asked to compare himself with Ronaldo, the Brazilian striker he should see a lot of on Sunday night, Leboeuf responded, "I played striker once, too, and that's why I became a central defender."

## Unlikely Scorer Thrusts France by Croatia to Final

By Jere Longman  
New York Times Service

**SAINT-DENIS, France** — After producing no goals in his first 37 appearances with the French soccer team, the exquisite defender Lilian Thuram delivered a pair, providing a 2-1 victory over Croatia in the World Cup semifinal and propelling France into the World Cup final for the first time before 80,000 delirious fans at the Stade de France.

Two minutes into the second half

Wednesday, after he made a rare mistake that led to Croatia's goal, Thuram stole a pass to tie the game and to energize a lethargic team that had not scored during regulation time in two previous matches. He scored again in the 69th minute after another alert disruption and sent his team into the championship game against Brazil on Sunday.

Strangely, the match changed from a dull, interminable first half to a wild, gripping conclusion. France was fatigued and frantic to avoid a third consecutive

overtime game. But five minutes into injury time, it was still not out of trouble. Not until its goalkeeper, Fabien Barthez, punched away a shot from Goran Vlavovic did Croatia finally succumb to its first trip to the World Cup.

France played short-handed for the final 20 minutes, after its previous savior, Laurent Blanc, received a red card for a stiff arm to the face of the Croatian defender Slaven Bilic. Blanc is ineligible for the final, which could be crippling. It was Blanc who scored the goal in overtime to send France past Paraguay in the second round, and it was his penalty kick that made the difference in the quarterfinals against Italy.

Still, it was a night for exuberant release as France finally made it to the World Cup final after losing in the semifinals in 1958, 1982 and 1986.

The scoreless first half was the kind of soccer that people who dislike the game use as prime evidence. The top French offense consisted of setting up the playmaker Zinedine Zidane 30 yards from the goal. But only seconds into the second half, the game exploded into a captivating fight to the finish.

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## POSTCARD

## Santa's Turkish Roots

By Stephen Kinzer  
New York Times Staff Writer

DEMRE, Turkey — The slogan of this pretty town on Turkey's magnificent Mediterranean coast might be: "Catering to Cults and Religions for More Than 2,000 Years."

A center for pagans, early Christians and modern Eastern Orthodox denominations, Demre today attracts throngs of camera-toting pilgrims.

In pre-Christian times, Hellenic tribes who lived in the surrounding mountains built a temple here. It was destroyed in an earthquake in the second century A.D., a

cataclysm that local Christians took as Jehovah's retribution on those who refused to embrace monotheism.

Christians built a church on the site of the ruined temple, and in the fourth century a local holy man named Nicholas became its bishop.

He was renowned for good deeds, among them throwing a purse full of gold coins in the window of a home where three impoverished sisters lived.

The sisters had decided that two of them would sell the third into slavery so the first two could afford dowries, and when Nicholas overheard their desperate plan through an open window, he resolved to help them anonymously.

Nicholas is also said to have carried a sack full of gifts for children through the streets of Demre, then known as Myra, on the December night before the birth of Jesus was celebrated. For this he became the prototype of Santa Claus.

After Nicholas died in 323, his priests buried him in an elaborate marble sarcophagus that they periodically filled with fragrant oil. The oil

dripped through cavities in the sarcophagus, and priests did a lucrative business selling vials of it to pilgrims who believed the oil had miraculous powers.

About 700 years after Nicholas died, his skeleton was stolen by Italian merchants. "They saw how much money could be made with the bones," a guide at the site said, "and decided to take them home to try the same scam there."

With no bones to serve as a drawing card, Nicholas's church fell into disrepair and was ultimately lost to history.

In the 19th century Czar Nicholas of Russia, determined to resurrect the memory of his namesake, commissioned an expedition that succeeded in locating and excavating what remained of the church, including mosaic floors, several frescoes and the holy sarcophagus, in which giggling children now stand dozens of times a day so their parents can take snapshots.

After the Greeks living here left this region in a population exchange with the Turks that followed the fall of the Ottoman Empire in the aftermath of World War I, no Christians remained to take care of the resurrected church. Demre sank back into its former status as a remote though picturesque village known mainly for its annual camel-fighting tournaments.

In the 1950s local businessmen guessed that the legend of Santa Claus might be Demre's ticket back to prosperity. Since then the Turkish government has claimed Nicholas — and by extension Santa — as its own, issuing a stamp in his honor and sponsoring conferences here to honor his memory.

By Howard Kurtz  
Washington Post Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Tina Brown, the outgoing editor of The New Yorker, will become chairman and part owner of a new multimedia company, in partnership with Miramax Films, that will launch a monthly magazine and produce movies, television programs and books.

The new venture was announced after Brown, who transformed The New Yorker from a fading cultural institution to a fiercely topical, sometimes glibly magazine that continued to hemorrhage money, stunned her staff by announcing her resignation Wednesday.

S.I. Newhouse, whose media holdings include The New Yorker, offered Brown millions of dollars to sign a five-year contract, but after staring at it, she told her staff, "I couldn't stand the thought of getting married for five more years." (Related article, Page 15)

Brown's confidants say she has been frustrated by plans to merge The New Yorker's operations into Conde Nast, the Newhouse magazine empire, and by the company's refusal to let her start other media ventures. She has also been deeply affected by the death of her mother, who urged her to get more fun out of life, just days ago.

"It was so difficult to make the decision because of my great passion for The New Yorker," Brown, 44, said in an interview. She said her friend Harvey Weinstein, co-chairman of Miramax, "was offering something The New Yorker couldn't offer me: equity, a partnership, the ability to create a new media company."

Conceding that The New Yorker had become less of a challenge, she said: "I was having a lot of doubts about it, and agonizing over it, and wanted to do it and then felt I shouldn't. That psychological moment is when Harvey moved in."

In a larger sense, the British-born Brown, who made her name editing Vanity Fair before joining

The New Yorker in 1992, has been a master practitioner of "buzz," the magical chatter that renders a publication must reading. This is the woman who once put a naked and very pregnant Demi Moore on Vanity Fair's cover. But the buzz on Brown has grown rather negative of late, particularly as her magazine lost a reported \$60 million in the last four years.

"Even a brilliant person has only so many ways to do a weekly," said Kurt Andersen, a New Yorker writer. "The second 300 issues are probably going to be less original and surprising and interesting to the world and yourself than the first 300."

"She gets a lot of criticism for being obsessed with buzz, but buzz is what brings you to the magazine," said Michael Kinsley, editor of Slate. "She saved that magazine, editorially. It's the hottest magazine being published."

There was no immediate line on a successor. Those being touted include Graydon Carter, Vanity Fair's editor; Kinsley, a former editor of the New Republic and Harper's; Andersen, a former editor of New York magazine; and David Remnick, a Pulitzer Prize-winning New Yorker writer.

Brown, who says she had several other offers, is the second member of her family to leave Newhouse's privately held corporation. Her husband, Harold Evans, resigned last year as president of Random House.

The new Miramax venture, whose market appeal remains to be seen, is the logical extension of Hollywood's constant scouring of books and magazines for movie ideas. Bidding wars frequently break out over the rights to hot new books even before they go to press, and magazine pieces are commonly mined for script ideas.

Once an independent studio, Miramax was bought by Disney in 1993 and now churns out more films than most of its rivals, including such hits as "Good Will Hunting" and "The English Patient." Weinstein noted that "Saturday Night Fever" and "Urban Cowboy" began as magazine pieces.



First R. Girard/The New York Times  
S.I. Newhouse with Tina Brown at a party for The New Yorker magazine's 70th anniversary in February 1995.

stein noted that "Saturday Night Fever" and "Urban Cowboy" began as magazine pieces.

Calling the venture "incredibly exciting," he said: "We can find a way to create a one-hour television special around a brilliant nonfiction piece, or it could become the basis of ... movies. It's all about content." Weinstein said he had obtained

media firm by Ronald Galotti, who was her publisher at Vanity Fair and now is publisher of Vogue, another Conde Nast publication.

As recently as last week, Brown was telling friends she would sign another New Yorker contract, but she cut the Miramax deal at 5 P.M. on Tuesday. There was some talk that Newhouse precipitated her exit by insisting on a long-term deal and perhaps other concessions.

While Brown's friends are "thrilled" for her, said Ken Auletta, the magazine's media writer, "the flip side is a concern for what happens next at the New Yorker. What happens to the people on staff?" One reporter said Brown's departure "makes the whole place feel like stale goods."

Brown's future became the subject of considerable speculation in late May when Steven Florio, Conde Nast's chief executive, removed the New Yorker's publisher — his younger brother, Thomas Florio — without consulting her.

There were also media reports that seemed to blame Brown's free-spending ways — she has been known to pay as much as \$25,000 for an article — for the magazine's financial distress.

Brown recruited plenty of high-priced talent while dumping some of the old guard, many of them established authors. Backed by an expensive promotional campaign, she boosted circulation from 628,000 to 809,000 and won 10 National Magazine Awards.

From the day she took the job, Brown was assailed by some for trampling on the hallowed traditions of the legendary New Yorker editor William Shawn.

"The magazine had become old and in some ways ossified," Auletta said. "The regime before Tina basically acted like a museum curator. She was determined to make it more relevant. She made some mistakes, published some pictures that some of us were not that thrilled with. But she did a brilliant job."

## PEOPLE



THE B-52S ARE BACK — The band, which regrouped after a five-year break, has released a greatest hits album, "Time Capsule: Songs for a New Generation."

THE Opera Bastille in Paris said that James Conlon has agreed to stay on as its permanent conductor and music adviser until 2004. The extension of his contract, originally due to expire July 31, 2001, signals an end to a period of damaging public disputes at the opera house. The New York-born Conlon, 48, was hired three years ago after the Opera Bastille fired his predecessor, Myung-Whun Chung.

A first edition of Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales" was sold at auction to the billionaire philanthropist J. Paul Getty Jr. at a price that Christie's said was a world record. The red leather-bound edition, printed in 1476 or 1477 by England's earliest typographer, William Caxton, sold for \$4,621,500 (about \$7.6 million). "This has become the most expensive book ever sold," said a Christie's spokeswoman. Christie's had expected the book to fetch up to \$700,000 at most. The spokeswoman said the previous highest auction price for a book was \$3.3 million for a Gutenberg bible printed in 1455.

Queen Elizabeth II, renowned for her stern public image, entertained an audience by mimicking Northern Ireland's firebrand Protestant

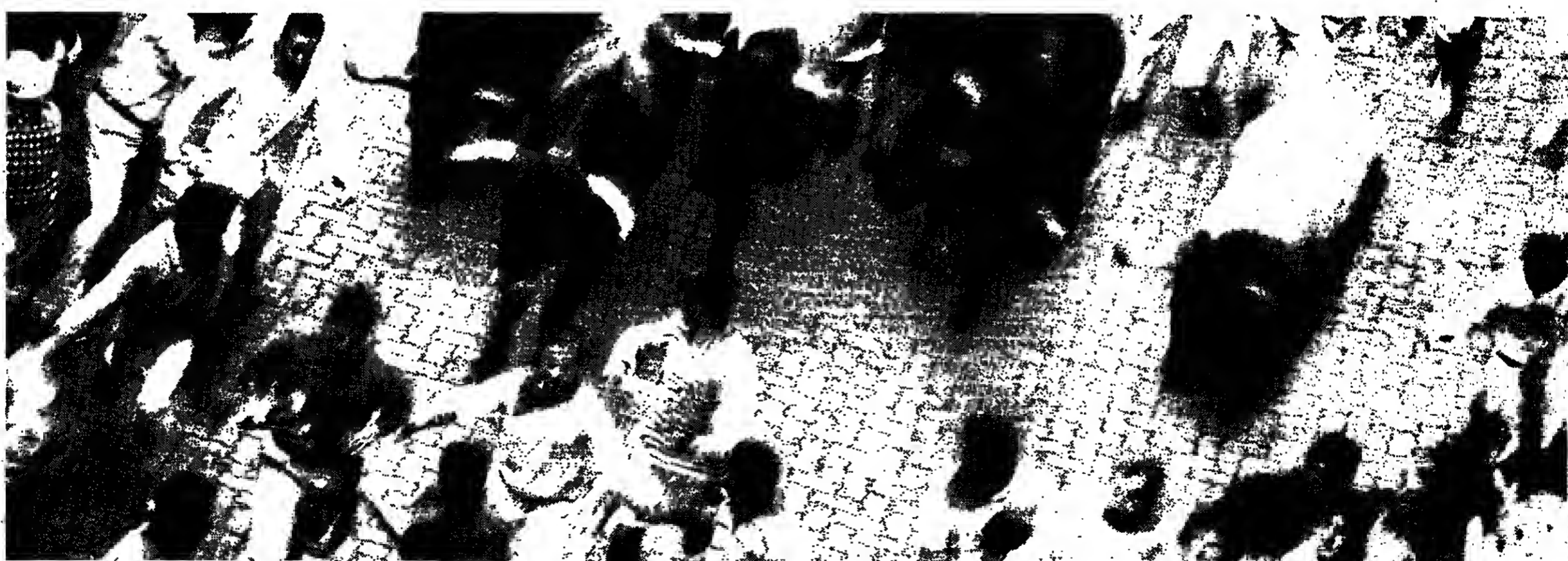
politician, the Reverend Ian Paisley. A civic leader in Edinburgh who recently met the queen at an official reception wrote in a local paper that the British monarch had carried out a "wicked" impersonation of Paisley, several London newspapers reported. A Buckingham Palace spokeswoman responded, "We do not comment on private conversations between the queen and other people." But Paisley himself, a staunch royalist, was magnanimously amused. "The queen is entitled to use the gifts that God has given her to mimic anyone she pleases," he said.

Jurors for the Praemium Imperiale awarded lifetime achievement prizes Thursday to five artists: the British director Richard Attenborough, the Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina, the Israeli sculptor Dani Karavan, the American painter Robert Rauschenberg and the Portuguese architect Alvaro Siza. The Japanese-sponsored Praemium Imperiale honors artistic fields not covered by Nobel Prizes; the awards are often referred to as the Japanese Nobel for culture. The awards of 15 million yen (about \$143,600), which were announced in Munich, will be presented in Tokyo in October. On hand for the announcement were three jurors: the former German chancellor Helmut

Schmidt, the former British prime minister Edward Heath and the former French prime minister Raymond Barre. The other jurors are David Rockefeller Jr., the U.S. industrialist; Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former Japanese prime minister; and Umberto Agnelli, the Italian industrialist.

The moon landing, Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, the peace sign ubiquitous during Vietnam War protests and the Peace Corps are among the 1960s topics that the public voted memorable enough to be portrayed on U.S. postage stamps. The post office is issuing sets of 15 stamps to commemorate each decade of the century.

Smashing Pumpkins want their latest tour to smash some Generation X stereotypes. "There is a common feeling that the world is falling apart, and we're one of the bands of our generation accused of playing into that nihilism," said Billy Corgan, the band's lead singer. "I'm sick of being accused of feeding into that." The band hopes to raise \$2.3 million for local charities during its summer tour, which opened Tuesday. "What's important now is putting our values ahead of our pockets," Corgan said.



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